Executive Council Standing Committee on Finance

June 30, 2020

Minutes of the Tele-Meeting


Mally called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM EDT. Mike offered a prayer.

Minutes were deferred until the next meeting. Review was made of the agenda for this meeting. It was moved, seconded and approved. Mally gave a quick report on the ECEC meeting. The grants to Georgia and Atlanta were approved; Kurt will notify them. UTO had reconfigured their grant process, two cycles during the COVID19 period. Several grant recipients asked if they can modify their programs to accommodate the pandemic guidelines.

2020 Adjusted Budget

Review was made of the simplified, EC revisions document that Kurt posted. Slight reduction is seen in income owing to refunds that had to be made. On the expense side, EC savings total about $3.4 million.

Kurt walked the committee through the gray areas of the modified budget. Some budget lines are considered across a whole triennium. When the budget is presented and so that tracking works, all areas are divided by the three years of the triennium. Kurt pointed out in Church Planting grants the resolution that came from MIN has a grid that shows $428K new church grants were approved in February 2020. Kurt has not been able to find the resolution that ties to the number, despite his research (MIN-010 or 028 in the chart). Hence, $1.571 million may be unspent. EC should decide whether they want to tell the granting committee to go ahead to deploy that amount. Kurt has tied all other grant expenditures to resolutions.

The ‘gray area’ budget document was looked at in detail to achieve clarity.

- Line 42 - what actually was spent? Possibly, $66,667 remains for 2021.
- Jubilee expenditures were reviewed. Line 80 was moved to keep it near Jubilee.
- Cross-class congregational engagement will not take place in face-to-face venues.
- Line 84 is spread across the triennium.
- Line 165 for Creation Care needs to be checked concerning a $5,000 remainder.
- Virtual gatherings for creation care will be taking place. There was a discussion about where the real savings actually come from that staff identified.
- 173a is a line for additional creation care program. If it is annual there is $24,500 remaining. The amount increases if the number is triennial, $81,000. Committee agreed to treat it as annual.
- Global mission lines were agreed by Mission Beyond and +Dabney in conversation with Chuck Robertson and David Copley.
• Line 561 – Archives. The committee needs to get information about what is going on in that area. No change was made in the digital archives line item.
• Line 522 – assistance to office of pastoral development. Kurt had spoken with Bishop Ousley and they will use $115K. The box needs to be un-grayed. EC will have to be walked through the summary changes.
• Lines 616 and 617 (legal) are gray. The expenses are likely to rise and there is no consideration given to an in-house attorney. Approximately $100,000 will be added in line 617 with the recommendation from GO. For 616, the $150,000 remains.
• Mally would like to report to the ECEC the budget status and to ask for guidance toward staged reductions if/when it becomes necessary.
• Diocesan payments are ahead of budget as of the end of May.

Questions for JSCs regarding budget reductions. Diane talked about her process and shared some of her thoughts about the questions:
- What function can be eliminated?
- What percentage of total grant capacity can be reduced?
- What large projects do you feel can be done without – cross department/committee?
Zena added:
- What are the functions that we no longer do or do better?
- How have we modified the priorities [delivery mechanism] of what we do?

Discussion looked at the diversity of thought across the church. Also, a look was taken at identifying and serving the most vulnerable communities strategically. ECEC should give FIN guidance on staged reductions. +Anne raised the matter of rapid response grants and the positive feedback about them.

Conversations about post-pandemic raised the question of how we respond to the needs afterward. There will be ministries needed to those left behind.

Diane will post to the Extranet some questions for comment.

Cornelia closed the meeting with prayer.

Mally adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee