

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

September 10, 2019

Financial Data for 2020 Congregational Budget Planning

- **Why This Document?** These preliminary numbers provided below are intended to help churches in preparing their budgets for 2020. The final 2020 presbytery budget will be submitted for approval at the stated presbytery meeting in November 2019. If any changes to Connectional Support amounts result from the final 2020 presbytery budget, that will be communicated to churches immediately after the November meeting. The GA and Synod Per Capita amounts below should not change.
- **Per Capita:** These are the amounts paid to General Assembly and Synod of the Covenant by each presbytery to support GA and Synod activities. The Presbytery of the Miami Valley's long-standing practice is to meet its obligation and pay the full assessed amount to GA and the Synod based on our total membership. To the extent that our member churches do not reimburse the presbytery, any shortfall will, of necessity, be drawn from presbytery reserves to meet our commitment.
 - **2020 General Assembly Per Capita: \$8.95 per active member**, unchanged from 2019
 - **2020 Synod Per Capita: \$3.25 per active member**, unchanged since 2017
- **2020 Presbytery Connectional Support projection: \$40.00 per active member.** For the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, preliminary budget projections for 2020 indicate an amount of \$40.00 for Connectional Support per active member. The total expected from each church is based on the active membership figure that the church provided during statistics season as of the end of 2018. The membership numbers by church are included on the next page of this packet (**p. 57**). This \$40.00 amount is an increase from 2019, reflecting the continuing focus on better aligning the presbytery's activities to its mission to "prepare, equip, nurture, and connect congregations in their ministries for God's mission." Even as we ask for financial support from churches for the presbytery's mission, the presbytery must also draw from its reserves to carry out its call.
- While the increase from the 2019 Connectional Support amount of \$36.00 may seem excessive, it unfortunately is still not sufficient to prevent the need to draw on our reserves to fully fund the presbytery's covenantal work. Full funding from Connectional Support without drawing from reserves would require Connectional Support payments of nearly \$48.00 per active member, an amount that Leadership Council feels is unrealistic to ask churches to pay. **The Leadership Council welcomes feedback from churches about this \$40.00 figure as we move toward considering and approving a 2020 presbytery budget in November. Please contact Trustees Chair Andy Gerhart at gerhartandy@gmail.com or 937-329-4275.**

- As you are aware, the presbytery depends on Connectional Support from our 49 churches to meet its expenses. Connectional Support annually provides about 75% of the presbytery's income. The balance is covered by income from investments, miscellaneous small sources, and, significantly, amounts drawn from reserves. Unfortunately, the presbytery has had to supplement its income with funds drawn from reserves for the last several years, a practice which obviously cannot continue indefinitely. The reserves are supplemented with income earned and occasional bequests or donations, but are also subject to fluctuations in the investment markets. While these factors make precise prediction difficult, based on recent withdrawals to meet operating expenses, the current reserves may be exhausted in about 12 years.
- **Since the presbytery's work benefits every one of our member churches, it's only fair that most of the income that allows that work to be done reflects and embodies the covenantal support among our churches as we care for each other through the presbytery.** Some congregations are able to support the presbytery's work with amounts beyond—and sometimes well beyond—the per member Connectional Support. In doing so, those congregations both recognize the resourceful work the presbytery does for all churches, and help support other churches that, because of size or limited resources, are not able to meet the per member giving expectation. We thank each church for giving as much as it can, in covenant with each other, to strengthen our work together in Christ's service as a presbytery.
- Churches may send their Connectional Support and their Per Capita payments for GA and the Synod in one lump sum or throughout the year to the presbytery office. Many churches invite their members, at the beginning of each calendar year, to pay the equivalent of their share of Per Capita expenses and Connectional Support as an extra gift beyond their other pledges to the church. This is a good way to remind people of the connectional nature of our relationships with other churches in our presbytery and with Presbyterians throughout the nation and world.
- The presbytery continues its transition under new leadership, discerning its continuing role in preparing, equipping, nurturing, and connecting congregations for their faithful ministries for God's mission. **Strong financial support from congregations during 2020 will help guide and sustain us toward what God is calling us all to be and do in service to the Risen Lord.**

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