

**TO LIVE ABUNDANTLY IN A TIME OF SCARCITY**

We are called to minister not just to people and places but also to a time of God's history. These days are marked by feelings of dread and enmity. Threats of war and terrorism dominate the headlines. Resources are shrinking rapidly. All fifty states face budget crises. Education, healthcare, markets and indices intone constantly of gloom and doom.



Yet dread and enmity are not Gospel values. It is precisely in times such as these that we must set an example of our faith in God's abundance and in our commitment to use that abundance for the good of all God's children. Having served twenty years as dean of a Cathedral in a "rust-belt" capitol has taught me that it is far from easy but that it is also necessary and possible. Most important, it is clearly what God calls us to do.

This proposed budget draft has built-in conservative projections of income, yet continues to strategize for mission and ministry based on priorities. The Executive Council and its Standing Committee on Administration and Finance has sharpened the initial work of the staff and presents this to our General Convention and its Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance for our final deliberations.

As I have traveled about the Church and its institutions during this triennium, I have witnessed exciting, innovative, courageous and creative responses to the mission challenge of this part of the Body of Christ. Our hearings and committee meetings will be offered numerous opportunities to support and enhance these ministries as well as to review our priorities.

I look forward to working with all of you during this 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church. May our financial witness be worthy of the Lord we serve.

The Very Rev. George L. W. Werner  
President, The House of Deputies