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## **THE BUDGET FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

All deputies and bishops have now received the Mission Statement and Budget Proposal from the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council. The document not only presents the draft budget, but contains information regarding budget priorities established by the Executive Council and the 2002 Investment Portfolio. While the process for budget development is somewhat complicated, it is well worth taking the time to understand. The Budget for the Episcopal Church is one primary way in which we tangibly state and support our common mission. Deputies and bishops will have the ultimate voice in the adoption of the Budget for the Episcopal Church for the next triennium.

### **Understanding the Process**

#### **The Draft Budget**

The budget you have received is a DRAFT budget. Although it is likely that the budget to be voted upon by the General Convention will have many of the same line items and funding (or dollar) amounts, it is a "working" document. It has been conscientiously and carefully developed by the Executive Council and the Staff at the Church Center and is an important beginning in the budget making process. In a sense, the budget has been "handed off" by Executive Council to the General Convention for more work.

#### **What is the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance?**

The membership of The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance (PB&F) is appointed by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop and is composed of one bishop and

two deputies from each province. The Secretary and Treasurer of General Convention and the Treasurer of Executive Council are members ex officio, without vote. Although between conventions, PB&F acts as advisory to the Officers of General Convention and to the Executive Council in maintaining balanced budget policies and requires and receives an Audit to be presented to General Convention, most of the work of the Committee is done at General Convention.

### **PB&F at General Convention**

PB&F is responsible for recommending funding and spending for the succeeding triennium and presents the budget resolution at General Convention. At Convention, PB&F meets as a Committee of the whole and in "Sections." Two of the Sections correspond to the sections of the budget. One is called the Mission (Program) Section, the other is the Corporate/Canonical Section. There is also a Funding Section, which is responsible for determining the funding formula that will be proposed by PB&F in resolution form at General Convention. The Presentation Section designs the format for presenting the budget to the Convention.

Based upon stated mission priorities, the open hearings held at Convention by PB&F on proposed budget income and expenditures, concurrent action by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops on legislation with funding implications, and other information gathered by PB&F, the budget is presented to the General Convention on the 8th legislative day and considered by both houses on the 9th legislative day. The budget that is submitted by PB&F and subsequently adopted by the General Convention, becomes the Budget for the Episcopal Church for the next triennium.

*With thanks to Bonnie Anderson from the Diocese of Michigan, who is both Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on PB&F and a member of the House of Deputies President's Council of Advice.*