



PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY

October 7, 2009

Dear Church Treasurer,

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry to which God has called us. Although much of your work as treasurer is done in the background, your ministry and service to your congregation and the Presbyterian Church (USA) is vital and appreciated.

The financial realities of a poor economy have monopolized the headlines for many months. The challenges we face are real, and in response throughout our Presbyterian Church family we have reevaluated priorities and made difficult and sometimes painful decisions. However, I am excited to report to you that the good work we do together has not ceased. The 14,182 members in this presbytery have continued to quietly, yet effectively bring the message of grace and peace to a desperate and hurting world. We continue to make a difference everyday here in Indiana, nationally and throughout the world.

On September 19, 2009 the Presbytery Assembly received the First Read 2010 Budget for the General Operating and Basic Mission funds. The budgets represent the mission and ministry priorities identified by the presbytery's elected leadership and a consolidated version of each budget is enclosed with this correspondence. In addition, the following information is included for your consideration:

- Wabash Valley Presbytery 2010 General and Basic Mission Budget Overview;
- 2010 Per capita apportionment for your congregation; (*In recognition of the financial challenges our congregations have faced, your leaders agreed to maintain per capita at the 2009 level or \$32.16 per member for 2010*);
- 2010 Basic Mission Pledge Form (shared, directed & extra commitment gifts (ECO));
- Other helpful resources to share with your Session and Congregation.

Please take a moment to review the leadership, administrative ministry, mission partnerships and congregational care activities supported through your per capita and basic mission giving. It is our hope that you will share this information with your Session and congregation as together you discern your 2010 financial support for the important work we do together.

Peace,

Eric Herzog
Financial Consultant to the Presbytery

Enclosures

cc: Pastor
Clerk of Session

Presbytery of Wabash Valley

2010 Budget Overview

General Operating Fund Budget (First Read)

The General Operating Fund budget includes investments relating to presbytery pastoral and staff leadership, office space, operations, insurance coverage, technology and reimbursements for travel and other events sponsored by our Presbytery and Council. Our commitment to remit 100% of our per capita obligation in support of the ministries of our Synod and General Assembly is reflected in this budget and it anticipates that congregations will contribute 94% of the total amount needed with the presbytery as a whole making up the 6% shortfall.

2010 Budget Overview

- The General Operating budget was developed in coordination with the Administrative Ministry Team, Coordinating Council and presbytery staff members that oversee the included line items.
- The combined *per capita rate will remain at \$32.16 for 2010*. Despite a decrease in active membership from 2009 to 2010, the collective body discerned that holding this rate level was an important expression of our partnership between congregations and the ministry accomplished together. This will result in an anticipated General Operating fund budget shortfall of (\$28,395) or approximately \$2.00 of per capita, per member.
- Throughout our denomination smart cost-reductions and on-going budget reorganizations have helped to maintain balance in the per capita rate. However, a look forward does indicate an increase in the per member rate for 2011.
- Ministry investments in administrative and office related services remain flat for 2010 and the budget anticipates the presbytery's pastoral and staff salaries and benefits will remain unchanged for 2010 as they were in 2009.

Basic Mission Fund Budget (First Read)

The Basic Mission Fund budget includes support of the local, regional, domestic, and international mission partnerships of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. It includes investments in five our active and committed ministry teams, as well as, the Committee on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry. Exciting new ministry initiatives focused on stewardship, nurturing our youth, and congregational care is included in this budget. The budget is supported primarily by your Basic Mission Giving (Shared Mission and Directed Mission).

2010 Budget Overview

- The Basic Mission budget reflects the mission and ministry priorities of this Presbytery as identified by your elected leadership.
- In addition to support for established partnerships and ministries, the budget includes three new ministry initiatives in support of congregations. They include two Presbyterian Church national events being held here in Indiana focused on stewardship and our youth and a multi-year commitment to Congregational Transformation.
- The budget anticipates a 12% increase in giving to Basic Mission in support of your mission partners and ministries. We are requesting that all of our churches prayerfully consider an increase to their financial support of Basic Mission for 2010.
- To help offset the additional resources needed to meet the 2010 Basic Mission priorities, the budget includes a temporary shift in the recommended Shared Mission disbursement. For 2010, the Presbytery of Wabash Valley will retain (75%) of your Shared Mission gifts and disburse (10%) to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and, (15%) to the General Assembly Mission Council in support of their Basic Mission Budgets.