

Proposal #2 Budget 2025

Title: Reviewing 2024 Year-to-Date and Adopting 2025 Operating Budget

Origin: Treasurer

What is the issue?

Transparency and accountability are key elements of financial management in any charity. It is important that the regional council is guided by these principles and models these practices for the communities of faith within its bounds. The regional council needs to understand both the strengths and challenges of its financial situation to be able to function effectively in the present and to ensure it is well positioned for the future.

Establishing a budget for 2025 is one step in this process and will guide the Executive in its management of regional council resources.

Why is this issue important?

The regional council is still becoming familiar with its financial situation and its financial reporting.

Income

The regional council receives two grants to fund its operation:

Assessment Grant: For Governance and Shared Services

Mission and Service Grant: For Mission and Ministry

The regional council also receives funds from:

1. Investment income
2. 50% grant from Archives Reserve to cover its costs
3. Regional council share (25%) of proceeds of disbanding congregations.

Expenses

Expenses are reported according to the ministry they support to help illustrate how the regional council is using its assets to meet its priorities. The budget categories and the staff positions assigned to each are listed below. AA refers to Administrative Assistant.

Ministry	Purpose	ARW's Share of the following Positions
Regional Operations	Operation of the regional council	Executive Minister Executive Assistant .5 Administrative Assistant (AA), D&J and Finance
Communities of Faith	Partnering with congregations	Minister, Congregational Support
Pastoral Relations	Supporting the formation and nurture of healthy pastoral relationships	Minister, Pastoral Relations .5 AA, Communication and Records
Communication	Newsletters, Websites	.5 AA, Communication and Records .8 AA, Website Management
Connecting	Providing opportunities to come together including regional council meetings	Minister, Pastoral Support

Faith Formation	Nurturing discipleship	Minister, Faith Formation .25 AA, D&J and Finance
Chaplaincy	Supporting ministries in post secondary settings	
Social Justice	Seeking to be faithful in the world	.5 Minister, Social Justice .5 Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations .25 AA, D&J and Finance
Right Relations	Deepening understand and relationship with Indigenous Ministries	.5 Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations
Office Operations	Office supplies and equipment	
Building Expenses	Cost to maintain building	
Emerging Ministries	Unbudgeted expenses responding to an emerging situation or to the regional council's exercise of discipline.	

The regional council has established an investment policy and created an investment portfolio that it anticipates will help address the gap between increasing expenses and diminishing grants.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might:

1. Receive the internal 2024 operating statement to date for information;
2. Receive the 2023 Auditors' Report
3. Endorse the following principles for the 2025 budget:
 - a. Operating expenses increased by 4.5% for inflation.
 - b. Prioritize Mission Support grants.
4. Appoint KPMG LLP as auditors for the 2024 Financial Year.
5. Adopt the proposed 2025 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.