

REPORT OF THE FINANCE/BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

(This Subcommittee is responsible to the Financial Advisory Committee)

The Finance/Budget Subcommittee assists the Treasurer with the preparation of the Diocesan budget and monitors Diocesan financial operations, including parish loans, loan guarantees and debt repayment plans.

In January 2011, the Finance Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) members met with the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC), and a decision was made to have joint meetings throughout the year, and make the Finance Budget subcommittee's primary responsibility the preparation of the budget.

During 2011 the Budget Subcommittee members attended the regularly scheduled FAC meetings, during which time FAC and FBSC reviewed the statements provided by the Treasurer and ensured that reasonable explanations were provided for both positive and negative variances to the budgeted amounts. Church extension loans, loans payable, and parish receivable for payroll and DMM were also reviewed at each meeting. FBSC shared progress on the budget with FAC, and when appropriate, sought the advice of FAC. Both FAC and FBSC believe this budget process was an efficient and effective use of both the Treasurer's and FBSC member's time.

Throughout 2011 it has been the intent of FBSC to work with the Diocesan Treasurer to create a budget that honours the Diocesan Vision, and is focused, transparent, comprehensive, strategic, and flexible.

FBSC commenced work on the budgets of 2012 and 2013 in early February 2011 with a meeting with the Bishop to obtain some general direction, and a few weeks later with the Diocesan Treasurer Jody Beck. FBSC sought input from the petal groups as to what resources they thought were required for their respective petal group. FBSC received several thoughtful replies and appreciated the input received. Of particular note were comments by the Innovation Petal who felt there should be reductions to DMM if churches engaged in innovative ministries that could be measured i.e. pod-casting sermons, messy church, and local community partnerships.

Subsequent to the meetings with the Bishop, and Treasurer, FBSC met as a group on an as needed basis, to refine the budget. In that regard, I wish to thank Ian Smith and his employer Westbrook Floral Limited for the use of their boardroom in Grimsby which provided us with a convenient location for all committee members to meet. Additionally in my role as FBSC Chair I met privately with our Diocesan Treasurer on numerous occasions to seek clarification on specific items raised by the committee, and to discuss the general direction of the budget.

In preparation for the budget presentation at Fall Synod, seven regional budget meetings from mid September to early November were held with the objective of communicating the proposed budget to as many people as possible prior to Synod. The presentations were primarily PowerPoint based with a two page handout available at all but the first meeting. The advantages to this format were several fold: it was environmentally friendly, it was easy to follow, and it allowed for the budget to continue evolving in advance of Synod. The presentation was not line item focused, but rather expenses were grouped into six readily understandable categories to provide for greater clarity. After each meeting the presentation was refined based on feedback received. I wish to particularly thank Jim Newman for his insightful comments.

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In conclusion, I wish to say it has indeed been an honour to serve as Chair of FBSC in 2011. The highlight has been the opportunity to see the bigger diocesan picture by visiting seven churches in our Diocese this fall and meeting with you the people. I want to thank Bishop Michael for his vision, candour and willingness to assist us, for the forthrightness and competence of the Diocesan Treasurer Jody Beck, and for the dedication and abilities of each FBSC member, and the support of FAC.

Committee Members:

Andrew Clinkard

Rob Fead

Jim Newman

John Saylor

Ian Smith

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Finance Budget subcommittee,
Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Chair