



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Diocese of Fond du Lac Finances

- **Why does the diocese need money?**

Funds are needed to support, foster and implement mission and ministry in ways that might not otherwise happen. Two examples:

- 1) Broader Ministry: clergy support (retreats, continuing education); diocesan youth ministry (programs, resources, camp); congregational ministry support (workshops, programs, financial aid, crisis support).
- 2) Episcopate: Bishop's ministry (visitations, ordinations, canonical requirements, assisting congregations in crisis).

- **Why does a congregation pledge to the diocese?**

God calls people to give to support the church, locally and beyond themselves. The amount a congregation pledges to support the broader church through the diocese is voluntary and not an assessment - it is not a "tax-bill". It is an example of good stewardship to parallel the model of giving in congregations when asking its members to give.

- **How much of a pledge is asked?**

The Asking formula is determined by the Finance Committee based on a congregation's normal operating income (NOI) as reported on the Parochial Report. Congregations are expected to pledge at the Asking. The Asking attempts to be fair in raising funds for diocesan mission and ministry. The formula is 10% of the first \$25,000 of NOI and 13% of NOI greater than \$25,000.

- **Does every congregation make a Pledge at the Asking?**

Almost all congregations make a Pledge at the Asking, although some may Pledge below the Asking due to circumstances that affect their ability to meet the Asking, like when a significant giver moves away.

- **What happens if a Pledge doesn't meet the Asking?**

Mission and ministry of the diocese will not be supported as much as it could be and may be less effective. If a Pledge is made below the Asking, a written explanation as to why must be submitted to the Bishop. There could be loss of Aid, if received. A Parish could revert to a Mission status. Diocesan Canon says if a congregation fails to pay its pledge in full for a year, its delegates can lose their vote at Diocesan Convention.

- **How does the diocese support the broader church?**

The diocese makes a pledge to the national church and also provides supports to other ministries beyond the diocese. The Diocesan Convention allows individual givers to restrict their gifts from the calculation of the diocesan pledge to the national church so that the pledge is 10% of unrestricted operating income. The resulting funds from the difference caused by restrictions are given in Outreach for needs beyond the diocese (such as disaster relief).

- **Who decides how the money is spent?**

Many people and committees are involved in the decisions. The Finance Committee prepares a budget, the Diocesan Convention approves it, and the Executive Council formally adopts it.

- **How big is the diocesan budget?**

The overall budget is about \$600,000. When inflation is taken into account, this budget is about 16% smaller than a decade ago. This is an intentional result of decreasing the Asking to allow funds to stay at the local level. The budget continue to support the mission and ministry of the diocese. Here is a break down of budgeted expense for 2012:

- 17%** Support for Outreach and Mission (*aid to congregations, national church pledge, province dues, ecumenical memberships, ERD, UTO*)
- 16%** Support for Congregational and Diocesan Ministries (*commissions, communication, ministries, summer camp*)
- 30%** Support for the Episcopate (*stipend, pension, housing, expenses, sabbatical / Lambeth / succession Reserves*)
- 6%** Support for Ordained Ministry (*continuing ed & retreat, background checks, deployment, Deacon's School, retired clergy insurance*)
- 31%** Support for Diocesan Administration (*staff payroll, convention, audit, utilities, maintenance, licenses, insurance*)

Remember that these expenses provide support to *subsidize* ministries and programs. Very few of these lines fully fund ministries or programs.

For additional information or details contact the
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