



**THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
WEST VIRGINIA**

2024 Diocesan Budget

“Where your treasure is, there you’ll find your heart.”
~Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel 6:21

This narrative budget tells a story about who we are at heart and what God is calling us to do, together. In this format, this narrative budget helps us to see where our hearts are and what we prioritize in our life together. It helps to align our treasure and our heart, to set our finances in line with our priorities. As the Anglican witness in the mountain state, we are called to fulfill our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ as the Episcopal Church has received him, working together to build up the Kingdom of God, and to be good stewards of all the resources God has placed in our hands. I am grateful for the labor that has produced this format and clarity for our consideration and look forward to engaging our mission together, putting our treasure where our heart is.

The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, VIII Bishop of West Virginia

A budget is more than just numbers on a page. A budget is a moral document.
It is statement of priorities, hopes, and faith.
It shows us where we have been and where we believe God is calling us.

2023 was a year of changes for the Diocese of West Virginia.
It was the first full year of our new Bishop Diocesan.
It was the start to new programing, opportunities, and adventures.

It was also a year of listening to each other and for what the Holy Spirit is doing in the Diocese.

2023 was a year of renewal—new energy, new people, new signs of life and vitality.

For the calendar year 2024 we want our budget to reflect how our diocesan changes, mutual listening, and ongoing renewal have informed the way the Diocese is now operating.

Assessing our Resources

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

– Malachi 3:10



Gathering hay into a barn near the Green Bank Observatory, Pocahontas County

The Diocese of West Virginia is blessed with several streams of income to make sure that the work we begin can be completed. This includes direct support from parishes and various endowments and funds that directly support the work of the Diocese.

The largest contributors to the Diocese are the parishes by way of Missionary Apportionment. After spending the last year listening to our parishes it is apparent that this mandatory assessment creates an undue hardship for many. The percentage at which the Missionary Apportionment is calculated is dependent on the rolling three-year average of each parish's operating income. Over the years the amount assessed has changed, at one point reaching 17.5%. For the past several years the assessment percentage has been 16%. We feel that the work of the Diocesan Office and our ministries will not be negatively impacted by reducing this further. The budgeted Missionary Apportionment of \$1,132,225 is based from a 15% assessment rate.

As you can see from the chart below, we anticipate investment earnings from our primary endowment, *New Dynamics*, to total roughly \$400,000 for the year 2024. Additional endowment and other funds, coming from a variety of sources entrusted to the Diocese and held in trust at Wesbanco, are anticipated to pay in interest or dividends roughly \$89,500. Two other funds, the *Permanent Fund* and the *Bramwell Fund*, supply additional resources to the Diocese (\$165,005 and \$43,000 respectively). Moreover, we expect additional income from oil, gas, and other mineral holdings and leases to provide the Diocese with \$10,000 of unrestricting funding.

<u>Income</u>	
<u>Missionary Apportionments</u>	
Missionary Apportionment	\$1,132,225.00
<u>Investment Earnings</u>	
Wesbanco New Dynamics	\$400,000.00
Wesbanco Distributions	\$89,500.00
Permanent Fund	\$165,005.00
Bramwell Fund	\$43,000.00
<u>Other Income</u>	
Oil and Gas Receipts	\$10,000.00
Total Revenues	\$1,839,730.00

The Kingdom of God Here in West Virginia

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

-- Matthew 28:19-20

Now that we have seen what resources there are for us to work with, we must look at what must be done to work out our mission and purpose in and around the Diocese. We are proud to say that West Virginia is "Almost Heaven," but we all know there's still a lot of work to do to truly bring the Kingdom to the Mountain State "as it is in Heaven."

As mentioned earlier, Diocesan Staff have been listening to the needs, hopes, and call of the Holy Spirit over this last year. What we heard and saw was the need to focus on four areas of mission: Sharing the Good News, Working Together for the Kingdom of God, Building the Kingdom of God, and Being Faithful Stewards.

Sharing the Good News:

This incorporates all of our work communicating—with each other and the outside world—the Good News of God in Christ, as well as our ecumenical partnerships working for the greater glory of God.

Working Together for the Kingdom of God:

This category includes all of our relationships within the Diocese (like convention, governance meetings, and leadership) and outside of the Diocese (such as our contribution to the wider church and gatherings and work across the Episcopal Church).

Building the Kingdom of God:

Here we see the work we do to form new Christians and leaders, raise up faithful clergy, and live out our Baptismal Covenant.

Being Faithful Stewards:

This category represents managing the resources we have in a good, faithful, and responsible manner by spending money on good oversight, transparency, and upkeep.

All that we do in the Diocese flows from those four mission points. Therefore, our budget should flow from those four points of mission in the Diocese.

On the next few pages, we'll see exactly what each category includes and how much we have budgeted to spend for each.



A team restores a set of Coffindaffer Crosses in WV

Sharing the Good News	
<u>Communications</u>	
Print Communications	\$15,000.00
Telephone	\$16,500.00
Postage Expense	\$2,800.00
Computer Expense	\$12,500.00
Copier Expense	\$2,000.00
Website	\$2,000.00
<u>Evangelism</u>	
Conferences, Dues, & Travel	\$3,500.00
Bishop's Visitations	\$5,000.00
Missionary Redeployment	\$40,000.00
<u>Ecumenical Work</u>	
Subscriptions / Publications	\$1,200.00
WV Council of Churches	\$9,000.00
Conferences & Meetings	\$5,000.00
EC Officer Travel	\$500.00
Bishop Travel	\$500.00
Sharing the Good News Total	\$115,500.00

Dayspring
The Newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

April, 2021 <http://www.wvdiocese.org> Volume 121, Number 1


Bishop Cowden Articulates Priorities for Diocese
By Linda S. Conner

Dean Grant shared a moving account of Bishop Cowden accepting an invitation to cross a bridge — despite the presence of armed National Guardsmen — to stand with vital elders at Standing Rock, N.D., on Ash Wednesday in 2016 during a protest over a proposed pipeline across Native American sacred sites.

“Matthew did not hesitate,” Dean Grant recalled. “He said, ‘We’ve been invited by the elders and that is a great honor. I’m sure this is what Jesus would do. We’ll cross the bridge. Matthew and me, and two other people who knew us.’”

The 2021 convention was held at Huntington Nov. 14-19, a hybrid online option was offered for a small number of participants who could not attend in person. The prior two conventions, in 2020 and 2021, were conducted virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A highlight of the gathering was a service of Evening Reception and Investiture of the Rt. Rev. Matthew Davis Cowden at the south diocesan house. In



Peterkin 2023: Grounded and Rooted in Christ
By the Rev. Canon Jordan Turnbill

The Peterkin Board is excited to welcome the Division of Peterkin this summer and beyond. We've been hard at work preparing the property and developing a program for the search ahead while engaging in work on behalf of our foundation for the future ministry.



Working Together for the Kingdom of God	
<u>Life Outside the Diocese</u>	
TEC Diocesan Assessment	\$213,545.00
Provincial Assessment	\$7,000.00
Bishops' National Meeting	\$10,000.00
Bishops' Conf. & Meetings	\$3,000.00
Geneal Convention	\$50,000.00
<u>Life Within the Diocese</u>	
Diocesan Convention	\$45,000.00
Standing Committee	\$1,000.00
Canon Travel	\$1,000.00
Bishop Travel	\$1,000.00
Staff Travel	\$300.00
<u>Leading the People of God</u>	
Staff Meetings	\$5,000.00
Staff Group Insurance	\$197,000.00
Clergy Pensions	\$54,000.00
Lay Pension	\$18,500.00
Ministry Support - Staff	\$591,885.00
Working Together for the Kingdom of God Total	\$1,198,230.00



Building the Kingdom of God	
<u>Making Faithful Witnesses</u>	
Lay Formation	\$2,500.00
Congregational Development	\$35,000.00
Peterkin School of Ministry	\$150,000.00
Youth Ministry	\$20,000.00
College Ministry	\$70,000.00
Commission on Spirituality	\$2,000.00
Diocesan Vitality	\$28,000.00
Canon Travel	\$4,000.00
Bishop Travel	\$3,500.00
<u>Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being</u>	
Reading Camp	\$7,500.00
Commission on Racism & Diversity	\$5,000.00
Safe Church	\$2,500.00
Health Ministries	\$1,200.00
<u>Ordained Ministry</u>	
Clergy Retreat	\$25,000.00
Commission on Ministry	\$10,000.00
Transition Ministry	\$18,000.00
Board of Examining Chaplains	\$1,500.00
College for Clergy	\$28,000.00
Building the Kingdom of God Total	\$413,700.00



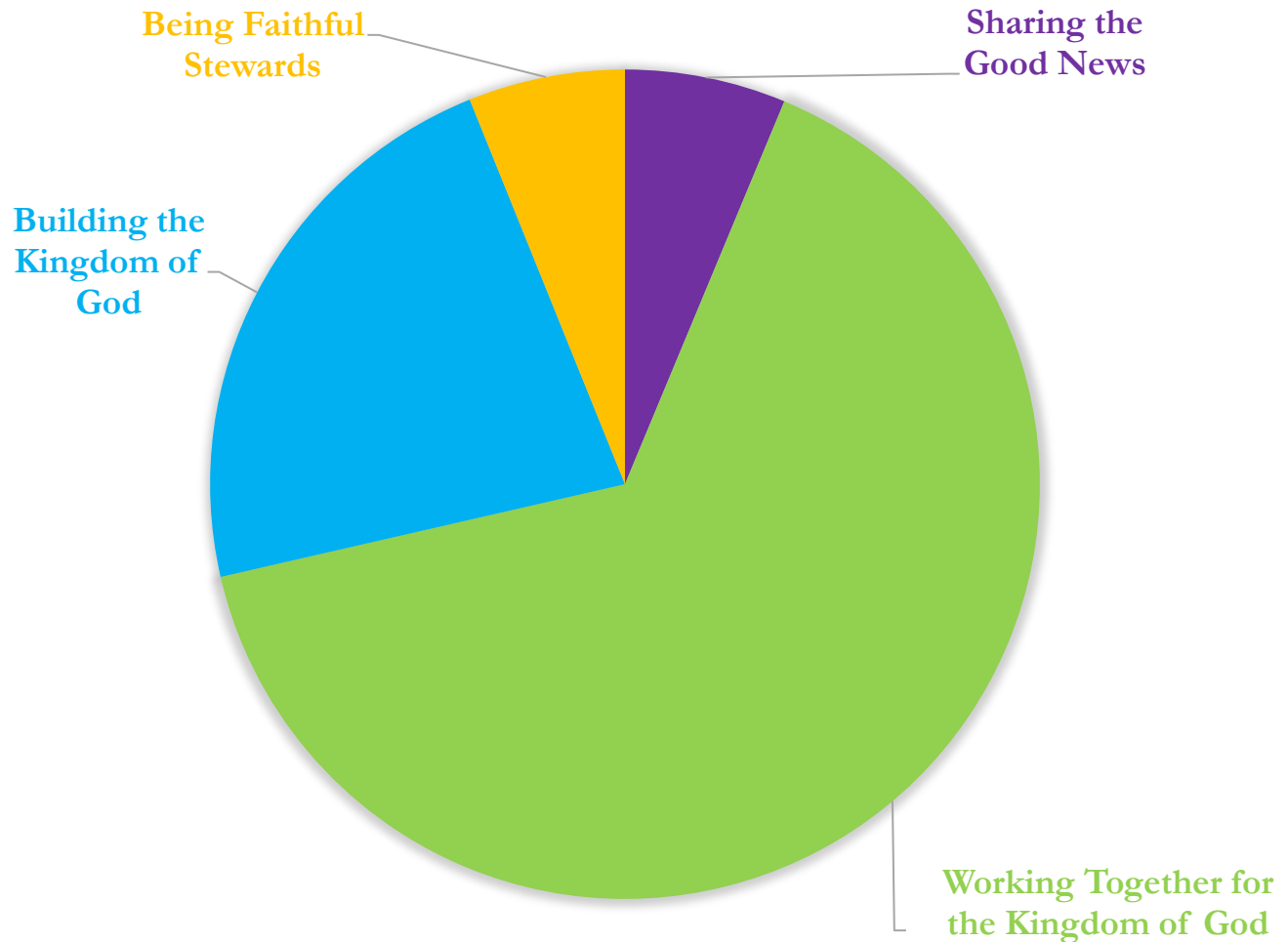
<u>Being Faithful Stewards</u>	
Regular Maintenance	\$3,000.00
Utilities	\$12,000.00
Office Expense	\$1,000.00
Small Office purchase	\$500.00
Property Insurance & Taxes	\$18,200.00
Payroll Taxes	\$23,500.00
Legal & Accounting	\$45,000.00
Automobile Expense	\$2,600.00
Automobile Insurance and Taxes Exp	\$6,500.00
Being Faithful Stewards Total	\$112,300.00



The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ...

II Corinthians 9:6-15

2024 DIOCESAN BUDGET



This is how we propose to allocate resources to accomplish each mission point:

Sharing the Good News:	\$115,500.00
Working Together for the Kingdom of God:	\$1,198,230.00
Building the Kingdom of God:	\$413,700.00
Being Good Stewards:	\$112,300.00

Total Expenses for All Diocesan Work	\$1,839,730.00
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As we are anticipating a total income of \$1,839,730, the above allocations represent a balanced budget for the year 2024.