

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
NOTES FOR OPERATING BUDGET 2018

General Comments:

- Reliance on Volunteers and Contributions and impact of Expense Reductions
- Reliance on grants, individual donations and reserve funds to balance budget.
- ARCH fully incorporated into Operating Budget
- The Financial Report is changing if format and future budgets will conform to that format

A. Expenses:

The projected expenses for 2018 are \$727,000 This is \$26,000 less than the revised 2017 Budget. This reduction is primarily due to a \$20,000 decrease in the audit line item and \$11,000 in Personnel Expenses.

1. *General Services:* Decrease of \$24,000. From Audit and Personnel Expenses and \$5,000 increase in Committees

2. *Ministry:* Increase of \$10,000.
 - Section Expense - 1,100
 - Conflict Transform - 2,000
 - Ministry & Pastoral Care - 3,000
 - Spiritual Nurture - 1,550
 - Outreach - 5,000

3. *Nurture:* Decrease of \$10,000
 - Aging Concerns - 8,950

4. *Witness:* Increase of \$4,000
 - Section Expenses - 1,000 (in previous years used all for donations)
 - Appointee Expenses - 3,000

B. Revenue

1. *Covenant Donations*

- 58 Monthly Meetings responded to the request for 2018 Covenant Donation. Some Meetings may make an additional donation.
- The assumed 2018 Covenant Donation for the Meetings that did not respond are the same as their 2017 Covenant Donation and this amount is \$1,300.
- 9 Meetings that responded increased their Donation over 2017
- 39 Meetings kept their same Donation
- 10 Meetings decreased their donation

2. *Registrations Fees* - Based on 2015 and 2016

3. *NYYM Trustees*

4. *Other:*

- Grants Administration Primarily Friends Foundation for Aging and Shoemaker
- Interest/Donations/Publications
- Annual Appeal NYYM and ARCH
- Reserve from 2017 Revenue/Expenses in 2016 of \$36,000, Projected 2017 \$8,800
Operating fund Balance of \$256,000 Minimum Policy is 3 mos of
Operating Budget or \$182,000 for 2018

C. Comments from Meetings:

- We are soberly aware of our aging membership, and declining number of members who can make major contributions. We foresee that we will contribute less to the Yearly Meeting in future years.
- We desire to see individuals enabled to live out their faith which often requires disengagement from the commercial world. We encourage New York Yearly Meeting to explore creating this opportunity.
- Our meeting does not set a budget until later in the year or early next year so we are unable to provide a Covenant Donation Amount
- We will be hard pressed to meet our 2018 Covenant Donation and our 2019 Covenant Donation will be reduced

D. Minute from Budget Saturday

- Friends gathered at Budget Saturday approved transferring any excess of Revenue over Expenses for 2017 into the Revenue for 2018

E. Summary Comments from Budget Saturday

- Include line item under office expense for fees / electronic payment / aptiva /
- Can the web site provide survey function?
- Include consultation expense within the given committee that requires the consultation
- Coordinating Committees should be providing the line items to FSC but that is only happening about half of the time for half of the line items
- Sometimes staff get consultation from volunteers e.g. for the web site
- Have the people doing the work provide input into the line items for the budget;
- Ministry CC expenses are a combination of committee expenses plus programs.
- The budget presented to Fall Sessions might start looking different in 2018 or 2019 to conform to the new form of the Financial Report
- Consolidate minor expenses into the Section Expense
- Provide information on the process for applying for funds from the "Stevens" Fund
- Committee for sufferings has not met in 5 years request nominating committee to consider
- Committees frequently over-budget which limits budget funds available for other committees
- Dividing the budget into small line items with maximums adds to the over budgeting problem.; we should really care about the aggregate
- Powell House - new line under committees - add \$1000 expenses for volunteers to travel
- Nurture Section/CC - it is possible that we will have a new kind of section which might have expenses; as of now we just don't know
- Are the Witness Section Expenses being spent as allocations and donations? So far 2017 only about 550 has been spent
- Vital Meeting line item can be deleted in the future
- How much of the Operating Reserve Fund are we comfortable in spending down? At the moment we have about \$74K over the minimum reserve of about \$182K. We need to use some amount - currently about \$37K - in order to present a balanced budget for 2018.
- : "Meeting Income" (from covenant donations) has no clear trend
- Might be risky to keep taking 40,000 each year from reserves to balance the budget ideas to balance can include: asking CCs to reduce expenses; ask MMs to increase donations
- One Friend is concerned about continuing to fund ARCH from the operating budget, given that there was originally a grant dedicated for it, but that grant was limited in time. Friends Foundation for the Aging is committed to fund future years; it is intended to be an ongoing grant; however
- Individual MMs are facing financial problems and aging - can we even continue at the current levels at our own Meetings - including annual appeals
- One Friend feels it is valid to get income from unrestricted Trustee funds, but don't take all this

year and sacrifice future years

- One Friend would prefer not to take income from Trust Funds even if it is unrestricted
- Confirm that expenses are needed and appropriate; can workshops be decreased if there is no money to afford them
- Could consider giving each CC a block of money and let th CC discern how to allocate it
- The Leadings and Priorities asks for more financial transparency - therefore to only receive a summary from the CCs would be a step backwards.
- Is there something in between? E.g. Tell the CCs that they can change their budget lines around during the year - adjust expenses mid cycle.
- There was not unity that each CC is indeed able to move money around it. So maybe that needs to be communicated..
- We typically spend 90% of budget therefore, if necessary it would be reasonable to decrease each CC budget by 5 %. One Friend said each section should be handled separately e.g. General Services
- There are 5 properties listed on the "NYYM Financial Summary" (September 30, 2017): Stamford-Greenwich, Plattekill; Monkton, Yorktown, and Morris. The \$1,100 per month mortgage payment from Stamford-Greenwich could be directed toward the operating budget as income; it is a decision that could be made at a NYYM business meeting.
- Our budgeting process doesn't give us a good way of saying no; how do we decide the proportions? When we get excitement toward an item then we tend to allocate money to towards it. A challenge is the size and complexity of the YM budget e.g. with relative priorities. The budget is intertwined and connected.
- How do we check in on progress, actuals toward the budget, as the year progresses.
- GSCC would have difficulty getting down to the detailed line item level in the limited amount of time at summer sessions; but other CCs might be different. Be realistic about what to expect.
- The advance report helps provide transparency, which is valued.
- Not everybody is good at numbers and budgets; not everybody goes to Fall Sessions because they have difficulty with budget discussions.
- Budget Saturday is a unique opportunity to gather a cross section of Friends from various parts of the YM. Another Friend thought this was a helpful meeting. There is value in the conversation, as well as accomplishing the goal.
- CC weekends are now a day and a half (or less); but they needed the whole weekend.
- Is there a YM wide email about budget day? Some didn't see it.
- Could consider having budget day some place else.
- Some emails might be getting blocked in ways that are not transparent; based on an Internet Service Provider's spam rules.
- The budget is about telling stories; and here we are telling them cross silos. This helps us all be in this together.