

# Iowa Conference United Church of Christ 2009 Budget Presentation

Script to accompany PowerPoint presentation to 2008 Annual Meeting  
June 13, 2008

## **Slide 1**

The General Operating Fund (GOF) of the Iowa Conference, United Church of Christ.

## **Slide 2**

The total of proposed expenditures from the GOF in 2009 is \$1,045,440.

## **Slide 3**

This budget can best be understood as divided into 5 subcategories:

1. Board of Directors
2. Wider Church support & participation
3. Conference personnel
4. Operations
5. Direct program support

## **Slide 4**

The total GOF is allocated as follows:

1. Board of Directors	4.5%
2. Wider Church	36.6%
3. Personnel	47.6%
4. Program	4.5%
5. Operations	6.8%

## **Slide 5**

The Board category amounts to \$47,150. It includes

- Funds for new staff Search Committee expenses and projected moving expenses for new staff - \$5350

- Financial services – primarily the contract with our bookkeeper and audit expenses - \$36,300
- Board meeting expenses - \$5500

## **Slide 6**

Our participation in the wider church includes support of the national church to an amount equal to 37% of undesignated OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) receipts from churches and individuals. This is up from 36% in 2008.

Also included in wider church participation is support for:

- The Council of Conference Ministers - \$1640
- The West Central Region of the UCC - \$1840
- CUE overhead (so that 100% of CUE contributions from churches can be passed on the seminaries) - \$3620
- Nationwide Special Counsel - \$2160
- General Synod delegation expenses - \$10,000
- OCWM to the national church - \$363,340. This amount is calculated at 37% of undesignated Basic OCWM (which are currently projected at \$982,000).

Total wider church expenses are projected at \$382,600. It should be noted that we are COMPLETELY current on OCWM promised to the national church. As recently as two years ago we were in arrears slightly over \$202,000!

## **Slide 7**

Personnel expenses are the largest single part of our budget. In this slide the smaller circle at the right represents the light-colored portion of the circle at the left (the totality of which represents the entire GOF). The two portions of the smaller circle are intended to convey the proportion of the personnel budget which funds program staff (slightly over 75%) and the portion for support staff (slightly less than 25%).

Our work is relational! Having personnel means we can – and do! – personally relate with our churches.

## **Slide 8**

The program staff budget funds expenses related to the follow positions:

- Conference Minister – Rich Pleva
- Associate CM-East – Currently Ron Eslinger
- Associate CM-West – Tony Stoik
- Associate CM-Youth & Young Adult Ministry – to be named

## **Slide 9**

The support staff expenses fund the positions filled by

- Beverly Morgan
- Lee Hood
- Julia Rendon

(The contract with bookkeeper Randy Adams is paid from the Board of Directors section, and CenterLearnSearch Director Dianne Prichard is paid from the CLS budget – a separate fund from the GOF – though the GOF does provide subsidy for CLS.)

Our work is also supported by the work of many volunteers who cost us nothing but who contribute significantly to our work!

## **Slide 10**

The personnel budget covers:

- Salaries
- Benefits, including health/dental/vision insurance, retirement contributions, life and disability insurance and social security offsets for staff members who are authorized ministers.
- Continuing Education to keep our staff sharp and constantly learning.
- Professional expenses. This includes books and meals, but the largest part is transportation. These costs are substantial but are critically important in a work as dependent on relationship as is this work.

## **Slide 11**

The Personnel budget is the heart of the ministry of the Iowa Conference! Ours is, essentially, a relational ministry. It can only be done by people!

## **Slide 12**

Nothing the conference seeks to do could be accomplished without personnel:

## **Slide 13**

The processes by which local churches receive assistance as they seek new pastoral leadership couldn't be supported without personnel!

## **Slide 14**

The Committees on Ministry – those bodies which help guide persons toward licensed and ordained ministry, and which exercise oversight and care of all the clergy – would be far less effective without access to the support and expertise offered by conference staff.

**Slide 15**

Without conference staff, pastors – those persons whose leadership is so critical for healthy local church effectiveness – would not have access to the support and coaching the staff is committed and skilled to offer.

**Slide 16**

The planning of Annual Meeting and other programs could hardly happen without the support and coordination of staff.

**Slide 17**

CenterLearnSearch is crucial in providing training for persons who sometimes become pastors of our smaller churches. CLS could not happen without the guidance of conference staff.

**Slide 18**

Our new ministry with and for Youth and Young Adults wouldn't be possible without the expertise and passion that will be provided by our soon-to-be-called ACM for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

**Slide 19**

Our connections with the other conferences of the UCC and the national settings of the church are substantially enriched by the role that staff plays in attending to those relationships.

**Slide 20**

Our cooperative connections with the ecumenical community of other churches here in Iowa and beyond are largely a function of staff work on your behalf!

**Slide 21**

The operations portion (“overhead”) of the GOF amounts to 6.8% of the total budget - \$70,800.

**Slide 22**

This amount provides office space (and pays for related utilities and maintenance) and the essential work tools therein.

### **Slide 23**

This part of the budget also pays for computers, software and technical support. It pays for paper (we use a lot of that!) and copy machine toner and envelopes and postage. It pays for the phones – landline and cellular – that are such important tools in keeping our staff in touch with – in relationship with – you!

### **Slide 24**

Direct programming is a small but critically important part of our budget. \$47,450 is set aside for these purposes.

### **Slide 25**

We will provide direct support to Pilgrim Heights (Our Sacred Space, Inc) of \$12,000.

### **Slide 26**

We will provide subsidy of \$10,000 for the CenterLearnSearch program.

### **Slide 27**

We support Iowa Religious Media Service (IRMS) with a contribution of \$9250. Does your church use IRMS? You should! They offer a wealth of valuable resources.

### **Slide 28**

Our participation in the distribution of United Church News together with our Iowa Conference insert – the Reporter – costs \$6500. Do we have the addresses of your members so they can receive this resource at no cost?

### **Slide 29**

Programs administered by the Commission on Ministry cost \$4700. These include support for interim ministry programs, continuing education events and financial support for fitness reviews (when necessary).

### **Slide 30**

Additionally, we budget \$1000 for the support of other committees, \$1500 for special projects we can't now anticipate, and provide seed money for Youth and Young Adult programming in the amount of \$2500.

### **Slide 31**

So....where will the money to pay for all this come from?

### **Slide 32**

All the expenses described above are paid through the General Operating Fund (GOF). This is the fund into which all undesignated income is deposited. These are the funds over which the Board of Directors has discretion. It does NOT include designated gifts and other funds which are passed on to the conference for disbursement to others. These moneys are handled in separate and distinct funds so that we can assure that the intentions of the donors are completely honored.

### **Slide 33**

There are many such "pass through" funds, including

- The 4 special offerings of the UCC
- Special appeals for disaster relief and other extraordinary projects
- Designated gifts for UCC and non-UCC agencies which are passed on to the conference for direct disbursement to others.

### **Slide 34**

There are other conference operations which are self-sustaining – or partially self-sustaining. These other operations are not accounted through the GOF. For example:

- **CenterLearnSearch** receives subsidy from GOF, but the majority of its funding comes from fees and grants.
- The **Annual Meeting** – over time – is completely self-funding (except, of course, for the value of staff time expended in planning and execution of the meeting).
- **Youth and Young Adult Ministry** events are largely self-funding. The GOF does fund small subsidies for YYAM events.

### **Slide 35**

The Iowa Conference has small endowments for providing grants for continuing education for clergy and congregational leaders and also for ministerial

assistance in times of emergency financial need. These are also accounted for outside the GOF.

### **Slide 36**

The total income anticipated in GOF for 2009 is \$1,073,000. Of this total it is anticipated that \$1,042,000 will be contributed by churches and individuals.

### **Slide 37**

Later this year it is expected that the conference office building will be sold. When that happens the sale proceeds will be invested in ways to provide a steady and perpetual income stream for the GOF. Existing funds together with these sale proceeds are expected to generate about \$27,000 per year.

### **Slide 38**

OCWM income comes from churches and individuals. The largest part (\$1,025,000) comes from churches. Another \$17,000 is expected from individual donations.

### **Slide 39**

Other undesignated investments will provide an additional \$4000 of income for the GOF.

### **Slide 40**

These figures result in a projected budgetary surplus of \$27,560 in 2009 – an amount equal to 2.6% of expected expenditures. This is not a large “cushion,” but it is far better than the deficits of recent years.

### **Slide 41**

Our work is relational! Our staff and volunteers are on call to serve your church as it seeks to be faithful to the call of Christ's Gospel.

Thank you for your support.

If your church desires additional information about the conference budget, please be in touch with a member of the staff. Also, please consider a gift for the support of this work. Gifts for the current year's budget are always appreciated. Planned gifts (annuities) which can provide you income for the rest of your life and a gift for the conference at your death can also be arranged. Remembering

the Iowa Conference in your will is another way to support this part of God's work.

Many thanks to Ken Wells for his work in preparing the PowerPoint presentation which accompanies this script.