

## Budget Overview & Financial Forecast

Clergy in Charge, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurers of Congregations, Vestry/Bishop's Committee, Diocesan Council and Finance Committee members

And also: Delegates to Diocesan Convention *(We realize your delegates will not be chosen until your annual meeting in most cases. Therefore, we can't include them in this emailing. Clergy, please let all persons running for election know of their invitation to attend should they be elected.)*

Dear Diocesan Leaders,

At the clergy conference in October the Bishop asked the clergy how they thought it best to communicate the Diocese of Utah's new realities of our financial life, especially the impact those realities will have in the coming years on congregations. The result of that discussion was an agreement that a time for clergy and other congregational leaders to gather early in the new year would be an important element in informing and educating the diocese about the challenges before us.

Please put the date of Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on your calendars and plan to attend this important conference called "Budget Overview and Financial Forecast for Congregations." The Bishop is asking that each congregation be fully represented by its clergy, wardens, and treasurer. Other vestry/bishop's committee members are welcome, and diocesan convention delegates are also encouraged to attend. The conference will take place in the Deans' Hall of the Cathedral Church of St. Mark and will include lunch. Attendees from outlying congregations for whom travel to and from Salt Lake City would be difficult on the meeting day will be accommodated for one night, either February 23rd or 24th, at diocesan expense. Meals besides Saturday lunch will be at the attendees' expense.

We ask that attendees come in person. We will not be making the meeting accessible by videoconferencing. The nature of how we will be conducting the meeting will make electronic attendance unsatisfactory. Besides, we want to enhance our diocesan connections in person and get to know one another face to face, creating new relationships that will serve well as we address common challenges and support one another.

This time together is important--even critical. The Diocesan Council voted last year to reduce the size of the diocesan budget by \$1 million over the next 4-5 years. Already a reduction has been made for 2018 of c. \$300,000, nearly all of which has come by scaling back internal diocesan operations budgets, including the laying off of two staff members. In 2019 the reductions will begin to have an impact on diocesan operating grants to congregations, along with other ministries. It is critical that leaders in our congregations understand and plan for the changes to come.

The meeting on February 24th is designed to provide full information about our diocesan finances now and into the future. We will give a thorough explanation of how we got to this place. We are committed to being transparent about all the avenues under consideration, and we are mindful that advanced information to congregations is critical as you formulate local budgets. Most importantly, we want to hear from you! Your input will be helpful to the Finance Committee and Diocesan Council as they determine the specifics of upcoming diocesan budgets. We need the investment of your time as well as your reflections, ideas, and questions. The goal of the day is not only to inform, but to learn how your diocese may assist the congregations better as financial realities change.

Because this special meeting is being held, **there will be no pre-convention meeting this year.** However, at diocesan convention (April 27-28) there will be a hearing scheduled on resolutions so any questions and discussions about resolutions coming to a vote may be preliminarily addressed before they are on the floor. Also, there will be opportunity to meet those running for office.

Your attendance at this conference is essential, as will be your communication to your congregations after our day together about what you have heard.

**Registration is now open.** To register and to indicate dietary requirements and the need for overnight housing, please click on the link below and fill out the form. You will receive an immediate confirmation of your registration. The deadline to register is January 23rd if you require overnight housing, and February 14th if you do not. (This is to meet the deadline for the release of any unused rooms in the room block at the hotel. Persons who need overnight housing and register after January 23rd should contact Rhonda Uber, [ruber@episcopal-ut.org](mailto:ruber@episcopal-ut.org), for alternate arrangements.)

<https://eccu.wufoo.com/forms/budget-overview-and-financial-forecast-meeting/>

If you have questions about this conference, please do not hesitate to contact me at [801/574-0373](tel:8015740373), or [mjnestler@episcopal-ut.org](mailto:mjnestler@episcopal-ut.org).

Bishop Hayashi and I look forward to welcoming you on February 24th.

Blessed Christmastide and Happy Epiphany to all.

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