NATIONAL CAPITAL
PRESBYTERY

September 9, 2026

Dear Partners in Ministry,

While most of the church world slows down during the heart of summer, the Budget & Finance committee begins the important work of planning for next year's budgets. It always seems hard to begin planning for 2027 with so much of 2026 left on the calendar but look ahead, we must.

Over the summer, the Budget & Finance committee sent out guidance to each committee/commission for developing their 2027 budgets. And while the numbers are important, we know that behind each number in a story. Our hope is that those stories are shared through the budgeting process. As the stories come in, we work to weave them into our 2 budgets: Operating and Mission. Those budgets will tell the story of who and what is important to us and to our congregations.

With summer now quickly drawing to a close, dedicated leaders from across the presbytery will be working are discerning how the resources available to us can do the most good for the Kindom of God. It isn't easy work, it isn't flashy or exciting – but it is vital. The work culminates at the November Presbytery meeting where you, the body of National Capital Presbytery will review and vote on those budgets.

As this work takes place, I would offer that there is something for everyone to do. I encourage you to pray for your colleagues and engage with them on what programs and opportunities are important to you and the congregations you serve. Consider if the Presbytery's priorities and budgets are aligned. Evaluate whose voices we hear and whose voices are missing. Dream about where we need to go next. Share your wonderings, questions, and conclusions.

I also know that our congregations are full of planners and many folks have already reached out wanting to know what the per capita rate will be for 2027. Budget & Finance committee hopes to present draft budgets to Leadership Council in early October. Once Leadership Council has reviewed and affirmed those draft budgets, we will circulate the proposed per capita rate for 2027. Churches can use that proposed number for their budgeting purposes. Around the beginning of November, the full budget presentation will be posted and shared with full Presbytery ahead of the November presbytery meeting. During the November Presbytery meeting, the budgets will again be presented and voted on. That November vote is what will officially set the 2027 per capita rates and statements will be distributed to churches shortly thereafter.

Please reach out with any questions you might have about our budgets or the budget development process.

Best,

Heather Deacon
Senior Director of Finance & Operations and Treasurer