

The financial reports of the diocese that are available on the Diocesan web site and which will be presented at the Diocesan Convention reflect three realities. The first reality is that the diocese, like the church as a whole, is in a state of transition. When any organization is in transition, a state of fluidity prevails. The budgets for 2013, 2014, and 2015 reflect this fluidity in the hopes, desires, and disappointments of many people. No budget can please everyone, for inevitably the diocesan budget has to rely on the “voluntary” income we receive from the parishes and the income we derive from Diocesan investment and gifts.

The second reality is that the finance committee, contrary to popular opinion, does not make the budget. The budget process is a complex multi-faceted process that involves various ministries within the diocese, the Council of Trustees, the Standing Committee, the diocesan staff, the bishop, and many individuals. As a sub-committee of the Council of Trustees, the finance committee is the body responsible to receive these diverse financial strands and present them into some coherent whole. The budgets you have before you reflect an honest attempt to support and sustain the vital ministries of the diocese in a time of transition.

The third reality, and from the perspective of the undersigned, the most important, is the reality that real people are behind the financial information you have before you. In times of transition, things change, mistakes are made, things get overlooked; new systems are tried and sometimes fail while others prove successful. The past three years have seen some significant changes in the financial management of the diocese, not only at staff level but within the finance committee as a body. The reality I would impress upon you is that throughout this period, all the people concerned with the finances of the diocese, past and present, have worked hard and continue to work hard to bring clarity and openness to the financial affairs of the diocese and to be responsive to the needs of the various groups the budget represents. Over the past year an outside financial agency has been engaged to help the diocesan staff handle the day to day financial management of the diocese. Over the recent months members of the finance committee have begun a detailed analysis of the various funds of the diocese as well as a line by line analysis of the budget itself. These things are ongoing, and when completed we hope will bring more openness and transparency as well as a much simplified budget process.

With all the above in mind, I present for your consideration the financial reports of the diocese.

The Rev'd Canon Stephen C. Casey

Chair, Diocesan Finance Committee.