

# *The* EPISCOPAL CHURCH *in Western Louisiana*

## 2020 Diocesan Ministry Budget Narrative

The challenge in the Diocesan Ministry Plan has been to totally fund Bishop and Staff, administration, auto and travel and all office expenses using investment income. This goal has been accomplished for the last several years and presented the opportunity to reflect and celebrate what we have been able to accomplish: new mission initiatives, outreach ministry, and other diocesan programs. Diocesan Ministries are fully funded by our congregations, every dollar given from diocesan congregations are budgeted and spent to enhance ministry and outreach. We are grateful to our congregations for their generosity as they wrestle with fewer available resources.

The Finance Committee reviewed the current Diocesan Asking formula and concluded that, in fairness to both large and small congregations, a return to the biblical tithe would be recommended to Diocesan Council for approval. Diocesan Council approved the following resolution on April 9, 2019:

***“Beginning in calendar year 2020, the parishes and missions of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana will be assessed 10% of the current year’s income (Plate, Pledge, and Investment Income) as reflected in their annual budget.”***

Bishop Owensby and his staff propose to invest the resources of the diocese in both new and familiar ways in 2020 to pursue our shared goals of growing Christian community, connecting faith to everyday life, striving for justice and participating in the Way of Love. We anticipate that the income of the diocese will be drawn from these sources:

<b>Congregational Giving</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Budget Reserve &amp; Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Board of Trustee Transfer – Ministry Initiatives</b>	<b>12%</b>

Developing vital, vibrant congregations remain the diocese’s top priority. The diocese works with lay and clergy congregational leaders in numerous ways, including leading retreats and offering support for individual congregation initiatives. Every member of the diocesan staff works to enhance the vitality of

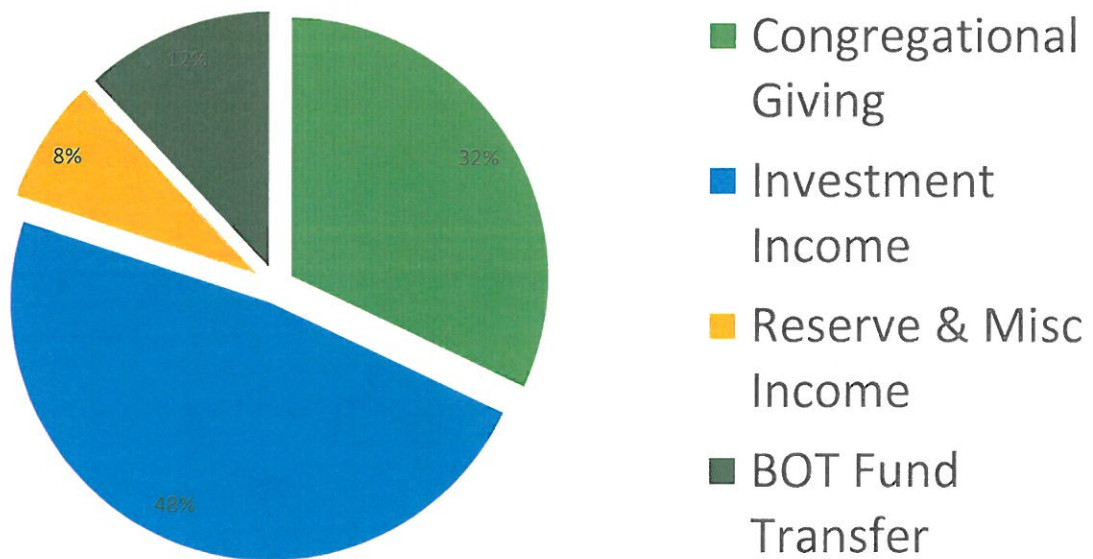
our congregations. The diocesan office exists to support the ministry of our congregations. Everything we do is with the congregations, for the congregations, or to help the wider communities, pastoring and supporting our clergy is a vital part of that.

Total Income

\$2,506,373.00

## 2020 Anticipated Income

Revenue



**Congregational Giving: \$806,811**

Bishop Owensby is asking all congregations to accept their full Asking Acceptance to the diocesan budget which supports all diocesan ministry and programs. For the 2019 year, 91% of parishes responded to their Acceptance with 56% of the Asking being accepted.

The missions and parishes of the diocese voluntarily provide the majority of revenue that sustains our ministries and programs through their annual pledge acceptance. This represents 33% of our income for 2020.

**Investment Income: \$1,212,821**

Income from Investment Funds supports mission and ministry across the diocese. As more congregations move toward full Acceptance, more investment income will be available for grants and other congregational initiatives.

**Budget Reserve & Miscellaneous Income - \$197,647**

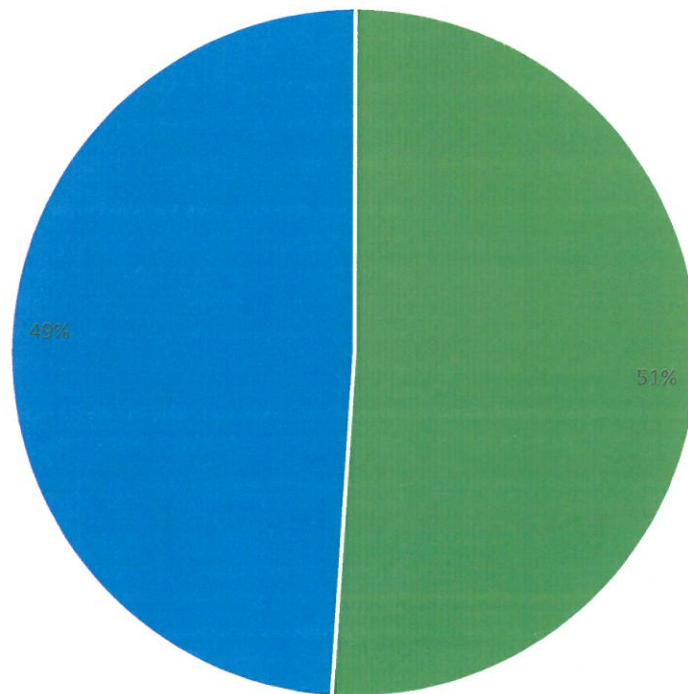
Interest Income and Budget Reserve Fund Transfer make up the smaller portion and help to fulfill any deficit needed in order to balance the budget.

**Board of Trustee Transfer – Ministry Initiatives - \$289,094**

Board of Trustees approved transfer of funds for Distressed Congregations and College Ministries.

# 2020 Estimated Expenses

Expenses



The expenditures of the diocesan budget are broken out in two different categories:

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|--|-----|
| (1) Programs, Outreach and Mission Development | 51% |
| (2) Diocesan Ministries                        | 49% |

## Programs, Outreach and Mission Development

Diocesan Youth Ministry	\$127,125	0.050721%
Diocesan Young Adults and Adult Ministry	\$ 13,500	0.005386%
Camp Hardtner Support	\$151,000	0.060246%
Episcopate Reserve	\$ 10,000	0.00399%
General Convention 2021	\$ 22,000	0.008778%
Support for the Wider Church	\$137,187	0.054735%
Lambeth Conference	\$ 2,500	0.00997%
Province VII Assessment	\$ 6,073	0.002423%
Seminary Support	\$ 20,500	0.008179%
Congregational Vitality Institute / Stewardship	\$ 60,000	0.0023939%
Clergy / Lay Conferences	\$ 12,500	0.004987%
Commission on Ministry	\$ 5,000	0.001995%
Theological Education	\$ 35,000	0.013964%
Ministry Support	\$ 12,500	0.004987%
College Ministry Support	\$ 63,000	0.025136%
ESA Diocesan Support	\$ 50,000	0.019949%
Episcopal Day School Support	\$ 16,667	0.00665%
Mission Dev / Congregational Dev	\$181,250	0.072316%
International Mission	\$ 6,000	0.002394%
Outreach Ministry	\$136,648	0.05452%
Communication Ministry	\$ 40,000	0.015959%
Diocesan Programs	\$ 44,100	0.017595%
Retired Bishop Insurance	\$ 3,500	0.001396%
Retired / Active Clergy Benefits	\$ 133,706	0.053346%
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>\$1,289,756.00</b>	<b>51%</b>

The allocation for **Diocesan Youth Ministry and Young Adults and Adult Ministry** includes programmatic and administrative support for all youth events and Christian Formation. This ministry promotes fellowship, creates an atmosphere for spiritual conversation and offers opportunities for those who are curious about the church to ask their questions in friendly, informal settings.

Support for **Hardtner Camp & Conference Center** is provided to help offset camp budget income and expense, providing an enhancement to the Summer Camp programs for children and youth, Camp Able, Adult Ministry Programs, various retreats and repair and maintenance.

The Diocese supports the work of the **wider Episcopal Church** – nationally and globally – by accepting its full Asking Acceptance which contributes to the budget of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. That money supports the ministry of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, his staff and the ministries of the wider church. This ministry will focus especially on Way of Love, racial reconciliation and evangelism.

In addition, we will continue annual support of the work of **Province VII** through payment of our full assessment.

In addition to our support for the work of the greater church, we also fund reserves to (1) cover the expenses of our Diocesan Deputation to the triennial **General Convention** (next in 2021 in Baltimore); and (2) cover our Bishop's participation at **Lambeth Conference**, which occurs every ten years (next in 2020).

The Diocese has expanded its support of **Mission Development, College Ministry, Congregational Vitality Institute, International Mission, and Outreach Ministries**. These ministry programs and outreach is funded by trust fund income. These expenses assist missions, college ministry, congregational vitality, International Mission, development, Spanish Ministry, outreach ministry throughout the diocese, theological education, prepare and support candidates for diaconate and ordination.

Also, funded by trust fund income, is an **Episcopate Reserve Fund, Seminary Support, Clergy Conferences, Curacy Program, Commission on Ministry, and Theological Education**. These funds assist in building an Episcopate reserve fund, supports our seminarians, provide an opportunity for clergy conferences and retreats, supports the curacy program, Commission on Ministry and their work within the diocese, and help to provide support for retired clergy assistance.

The **Office of Communication Ministry** supports mission and ministry through:

- News and information emphasizing national, international and local interrelationships;
- Resources that deepen understanding and practice of the Christian faith;
- Practical internet and technology applications to enhance web sites and other electronic
- Communications diocesan wide.



**Retired Clergy Support** reflects continued support to retired clergy with the provision of a Medicare Supplement and Group Life Policy.

**Clergy Medical Insurance Subsidy** was added in 2019 and will continue in 2020 to provide annual assistance to congregations with clergy insured through the Episcopal Church Medical Trust. The Diocese sends a subsidy to the congregation for one half of the lowest Single coverage premium for one clergy.

### **DIOCESAN MINISTRIES**

Bishop and Administrative Support Staff salary and benefits	\$652,383	26.029000%
Bishop and Staff auto and travel expense	\$ 70,000	2.792900%
Office Expenses	\$ 94,140	3.756000%
Insurance and Maintenance	\$ 86,000	3.431300%
Diocesan Convention	\$ 25,000	0.997500%
Ministry Initiatives (Distressed Congregations & College Ministries)	\$289,094	11.534400%
<b>Total Diocesan Administrative and Operation</b>	<b>\$1,216,617.00</b>	<b>49%</b>

### **Total Expenses**

**\$2,506,373.00**

### **The Bishop and Staff of the Diocese**

This office supports the Bishop in his **administrative responsibilities** as well as pastoral ministries. This includes work related to the implementation of both Diocesan and General Convention initiatives, Diocesan Council meetings, Board of Trustee meeting and policies and support of the ecumenical initiatives and relationships within the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

The plan covers the **salary, benefits, and automobile and travel expenses** for the Bishop.

The plan also covers the **salary and benefits for administrative support staff** for the Bishop; Canon to the Ordinary, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Missioner for Administration and Finance, Missioner for Formation and Community Engagement, and Missioner for Reconciliation and Community Care.

The day-to-day costs of operating the ministry of the Diocesan Office (**telephone, postage, supplies, computers, office equipment, etc.**) are included here together with the cost of the **annual audit** by an independent certified public accountant.

Expenses included in the plan also cover the salary of a building **custodian, utilities, insurance and repairs and maintenance of Diocesan House and Mt. Olivet Chapel.**

The direct expenses of the diocese related to **diocesan convention**: reproduction and mailing of Pre-Convention and Diocesan Journals, hotel accommodations, transportation and meals for diocesan staff and quests, audio visual services and equipment leasing are also covered in this category, venue, food and other miscellaneous expenses related to diocesan convention.

## **A Focus on Growth**

Congregations are being asked to accept their full pledge to the diocesan budget to support new initiatives, such as; congregational growth grants that foster collaborative parish partnerships in evangelism, worship, mission and justice work with underserved communities within the diocese; and the development of congregational financial strategies.