

**UUA Board of Trustees
Financial Secretary's Report
January 20, 2021**

Overall UUA Financial Health: Since our October 2020 meeting, the Values and Resources Alignment Working Group has continued to monitor the UUA's financial health. Due to ongoing restrictions on travel, our expenses continue to run well below revenues. We can expect to end the year with savings. The Treasurer will provide up-to-date figures as part of his report. I will not include "stale" numbers in my report.

It is anticipated that as congregations experience reductions in membership giving, APF contributions from our might also be reduced. The Working Group will continue to review the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Board FY 22 Budget: Budget requests for FY 21-22 were due on January 18. Travel expenses are the largest category of expense for the Board. I consulted with our Co-Moderators to put in a placeholder based on the assumption that we would have 3 in-person meetings, including General Assembly 2022 (scheduled for Portland, OR).

Board attendance at General Assembly is costly; total expenses for current and incoming board members, staff, conference room rental, etc. was ~\$91K for GA 2019. For GA 22, we will likely have a hybrid version of GA, rather than presuming that in-person attendance is the default. That makes estimating travel costs more challenging than "business as usual" budgeting.

During our upcoming meeting, we need to consider our responsibility to set an example of environmentally and fiscally responsible use of travel funds. Some questions we need to consider include:

- 2 of the Trustees elected this past June, plus our 2 Co-Moderators, have never met in person with the full Board. We will have 3 new Trustees joining the Board after GA 2021. How does this impact our decision-making about in-person meetings as to frequency and length?
- What parts (if any) of the Board's work would be more effectively done meeting in-person, rather than by videoconferencing?
- Should one Board meeting per year (other than GA) be in a location outside of Boston? (In some past years, the January meeting of the Board was held outside of Boston and the GA location, to give the Board an opportunity to meet with local congregations in their communities).
- What aspects of GA are enhanced by Board members being physically present?
- What aspects of GA do Board members need to attend in person as a courtesy or in support of worship leaders and other participants?
- Do all Board members need to attend all of GA?

- Do we wish to continue to hold Board meetings immediately before and after GA?

A copy of the Jan 20, 2021 budget estimate has been shared with all Board members via Slack.

Board Oversight of Committees and Commissions: The Working Group has been reviewing how the Board and the Administration can improve our support for the independently elected Committees and Commissions, as well as those Committees and Commissions established by the Board. We have agreed on the following:

- The Administration provides staff support to assist committees and commissions in managing their budgets. The support varies based on the size and complexity of the committee and commission budgets.
- The Administration provides incoming committee/commission chairs with an orientation to their budget and expense management.
- WG members will be reaching out to committees/commissions to build relationships and explore how these groups are aligning their activities with the recommendation of the Commission on Institutional Change.
- WG members will also provide guidance on prudent management of expenses, based on the Board's policies for itself, and the nature of the work of the committees/commissions themselves.

The WG remains committed to partnering with the Administration to work to implementation of the COIC recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Burek

Kathy Burek
Financial Secretary