

1 **Executive Council**

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3 **A Plan for Emergency Management of**
4 **the Current General Convention Budget (2019-2021)**
5 **June 8, 2020**
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8 **Introduction**
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10 The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance presented a budget to the
11 79th General Convention for the 2019-2021 triennium based on
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- 13 • the Jesus Movement framework;
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- 15 • the budget as a missionary document that funds the Episcopal branch of the
16 Jesus Movement; the three pillars of the Jesus “house” are evangelism, racial
17 reconciliation and justice, and creation care;
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- 19 • the foundation of our continuing ministries as a church and our commitments to
20 others both within and beyond our church;
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- 22 • an ongoing commitment to conciliar governance, and the legal, financial, and
23 other services of the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society;
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- 25 • income based on a 15% diocesan assessment rate, with provision made for
26 possible waivers; a 5% endowment draw; rental income from leases at the Church
27 Center; an Annual Appeal; and income from fees and other sources.
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30 **Guiding Principles and Strategies**
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- 32 • The Executive Council commits to following the above-named foundations of the
33 General Convention Budget recognizing that financial realities will likely require
34 comprehensive yet painful choices among equal goods.
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- 36 • The Executive Council commits to deliberations and decision-making marked by
37 integrity, courage, creativity, prudence, focus, clarity, and devout prayer.
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- 39 • The Executive Council commits to making necessary budget reductions in stages
40 and only when necessary due to loss of income related to the Covid-19 pandemic
41 and the resulting economic dislocation experienced by dioceses, congregations,
42 organizations, and individuals. A plan for staged reductions is being developed by
43 Executive Council’s Joint Standing Committee on Finance for Executive Council’s
44 consideration and adoption.
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- 47 • During this period of heightened budget scrutiny and revision, the Executive
48 Council renews its commitment to use its human and financial resources to
49 support the most vulnerable, the marginalized, and the under-served and under-
50 resourced within our church and beyond. At no time in our recent history have
51 the results of racist injustice been so apparent, and we pledge to keep this truth in
52 our sight as we make decisions about the budget.
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- 54 • The Executive Council commits to exploring all aspects of the budget including
55 income, revenue, reserves, endowments, funding and process for waivers of
56 diocesan assessments, and development strategies and potential donors to fund
57 priorities identified by Executive Council.
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- 59 • In light of the innovations and adaptations called for by current challenges,
60 the Executive Council commits to rigorous scrutiny of all programs, grants, and
61 other initiatives and the ways in which they provide relevant resources to the
62 churchwide community
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- 64 • The Executive Council commits to rigorous scrutiny of all other expenses
65 including, but not limited to, administrative, financial, legal, technological, travel
66 and meetings, operational, and other expenses which create and support the
67 infrastructure of the DFMS so it can support mission.
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- 69 • The choices will be difficult, and reductions will be hard to make. Recognizing
70 that every decision made directly affects individuals who are created in the image
71 of God, we commit to being kind, loving, fair, and equitable.
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- 73 • With deep regret, the Executive Council recognizes that depending on the length
74 and duration of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting economic upheaval, there
75 may be reductions required in staffing.
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- 77 • The Executive Council commits itself to a renewed search for collaborative
78 partners such as ecumenical partners, dioceses and congregations, and other
79 entities.
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- 81 • The Executive Council commits to transparency by keeping the wider church
82 informed about our process and decision-making regarding budget revisions.
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84 **Desired Outcomes**

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87 The Executive Council approaches budget reductions with a collective sense of regret
88 that such cuts are necessary. We hope and pray that the strategies employed will reflect
89 our collective commitment to the way of love as embodied by Jesus of Nazareth. We
90 pledge to respect the dignity of every person and strive for justice and peace among all
91 people as we are called to do by the promises we renew in the Baptismal Covenant.
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93 We know that revisions to our faith-based General Convention budget will be necessary.
94 Remembering that we are the people of God, we are open to and heartened by the
95 presence of the Holy Spirit who is calling us out of the wilderness to become the church
96 we are called to be during this time.

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Everliving God, whose will it is that all should
come to you through your Son Jesus Christ:
Inspire our witness to him, that all may know
the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, pp. 816-817