

## Narrative Budget

### Who We Are

We are the regional governing body for 47 Presbyterian congregations in Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. The churches we serve range from 6 to 804 members, in urban, suburban, and rural areas of Western New York.



## The Presbytery of WNY's Mission

We are Christ's body, called together for discipleship, hospitality, and wholeness.

We find our mission in five main areas of ministry:

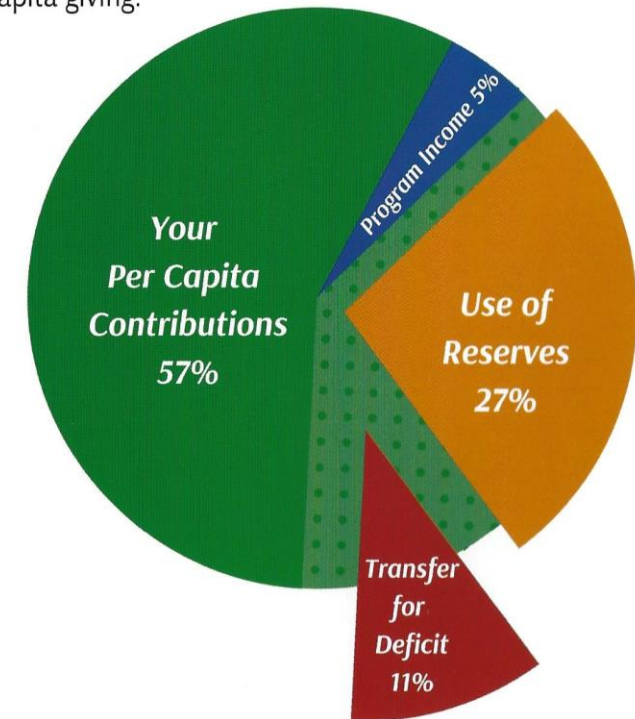
- Resources for Congregations
- Outreach Mission & Social Justice
- Calling & Care for Pastors
- Discipleship & Nurture – Youth & Education
- General Assembly (GA) & Synod, PC(USA) Connections



## Where the Money Comes From

Per Capita giving signifies a personal commitment of each Presbyterian to strengthen and sustain the Christian witness of the interconnected churches in our region, building up the Body of Christ, in all the ways that make us Presbyterian. Per Capita is an opportunity to share equally in supporting that mission through the work of the Presbytery. The Presbytery's 2023 budget is \$322,856, and the largest portion of this comes from you, the members of the churches in our Presbytery.

Per Capita giving in 2023 funded more than half of the Presbytery's budget; ideally it should comprise at least two thirds. The balance comes from invested reserves that Council has designated for specific programs; from program income; from restricted gifts; and supplemented by draws from general invested reserves to compensate for the underfunded Per Capita giving.





## How We Are Organized

The Presbytery Council has overall responsibility for the operation of the Presbytery and the accomplishment of its mission. The work of the Presbytery is carried out by 11 committees.

### Presbytery Council and its Subcommittees

#### Stewardship

Assists churches in the Presbytery to meet their own needs and to fulfill their responsibility as part of the Presbytery, Synod and PC(USA).

#### Budget & Finance

Reviews financial reports, oversees investments, audits, and develops annual budget. Advises Council on proposals, appeals for monies, loans, and grants.

#### Property

Oversees maintenance, sale, purchase or lease of any real property.

#### Personnel

Responsible for the welfare of the employed staff of the Presbytery.



## How the Presbytery did God's work in 2023

Our budget of \$322,856, is broken down into each of our five main ministry areas as represented in the chart below and includes both direct spending and staff time spent in each area. Our first commitment of Per Capita is to sustain our PC(USA) connections in GA, all the PC(USA) agencies, and the Synod of the Northeast. The rest of our budget is devoted to ministries and carried out by the committees as shown below.



#### Nominating Committee

Promotes equal representation of elders and ministers on committees, teams, and Council.

#### Synod & GA Commissioners

Represent the people of the Presbytery of WNY in the Synod of the Northeast and in General Assembly.

#### Permanent Judicial Commission

Considers and decides matters of ecclesiastical judicial process.



#### Committee on Ministry

Oversees and coordinates the relationships between ministers and congregations, to help churches seeking pastors, resolve conflicts, and provide guidance on compensation. Administers the Pastors Emergency Fund.

In 2023, 29 pastors and CREs attended the Clergy Retreat in Chautauqua with 3 other nearby presbyteries. Sponsored two Board of Pensions presentations for treasurers, clerks, pastors, and retired clergy.



**Outreach & Social Justice.** Membership in VOICE Buffalo. Sponsored 2022 antiracism lecture by Robin DiAngelo, gatherings at Jefferson Avenue Tops. Mission support for Bethel PC's dinner outreach, hurricane disaster, Ukraine refugee relief, emergency medical supplies, etc.



#### Discipleship & Nurture

75 youth and adults attended: Montreat Youth Conference, Watson youth retreat, Zoom Presbytery Training Day, and Digital Ministry workshop.

#### Resource Center

Preparing a new intergenerational event series, a six-week devotional, and fresh content for small church education programs.



#### Committee in Preparation for Ministry -

Oversees and cares for Inquirers and Candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and oversees and cares for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs). Administers the Duff Scholarship Fund and the Candidates Assistance Fund.

In 2023, CPM Enrolled two Ruling Elders in training to accept calls as CREs. Two ordained ministers from other denominations are seeking standing in the PC(USA).

