Treasurer’s report to Presbytery of Geneva

Stated meeting 05-21-24 at Camp Whitman

April 2024 financials are in the meeting documents.

The application for the Synod 2024 Presbytery Support Grant was submitted, and we have received word it was approved for $35,000. Marji Ackerman and I did most of the application with help from some others. Thank you!

The 2023 Audit by Heveron is underway. Many thanks to Marjorie Case, Elena Delhagen, Cheryl Battaglia, Alena Ragan, Bryan Muecke, and others. Thank you *everybody!*

Per capita 2025 discussion:

This is a table with per capita amounts from a spreadsheet of all presbyteries going back to about 2003.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Presbytery | Synod | General Assembly | Total |
| 2024 | 36.10 | 4.10 | 9.80 | 50.00 |
| 2023 | 36.92 | 4.10 | 8.98 | 50.00 |
| 2022 | 36.92 | 4.10 | 8.98 | 50.00 |
| 2021 | 36.95 | 4.10 | 8.98 | 50.03 |
| 2020 | 36.95 | 4.10 | 8.95 | 50.00 |
| 2019 | 36.95 | 4.10 | 8.95 | 50.00 |
| 2018 | 38.17 | 4.10 | 7.73 | 50.00 |
| 2017 | 38.40 | 4.10 | 7.50 | 50.00 |
| 2016 | 32.88 | 4.00 | 7.12 | 44.00 |
| 2015 |  | 4.00 | 7.07 |  |
| 2014 |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 |  |  |  |  |
| 2012 | 32.42 | 3.95 | 6.63 | 43.00 |
| 2011 | 32.55 | 3.95 | 6.50 | 43.00 |
| 2010 | 33.20 | 3.65 | 6.15 | 43.00 |
| 2009 | 33.00 | 3.85 | 6.15 | 43.00 |
| 2008 | 32.30 | 3.70 | 5.79 | 41.82 |
| 2007 |  | 3.76 | 5.79 |  |
| 2006 | 32.23 | 3.70 | 5.79 | 41.82 |
| 2005 | 31.30 | 3.76 | 5.57 | 40.61 |
| 2004 |  |  |  |  |
| 2003 | 28.28 | 3.70 | 5.44 | 37.42 |

(cursory review pf all presbyteries shows 2022 totals run from around $25-26 up to $74 for San Gabriel, the bulk around $45-49, some cluster around $60.) Our data has holes 2013-2015, but even so some things stand out. The Synod holds their per capita for years at a time (which given their investments is hardly a surprise). GA holds for a while, then jumps, then holds at that level for a while. We jumped between 2016 and 2017 to $50 overall, and have stayed there as GA has increased. Since 2017 we “lost” $2.30 per member by holding the total at $50. For comparison, compound inflation from 2017 to 2024 is 28.8%, further eroding our ability to serve congregations.

The more significant loss comes from the decline in presbytery membership (currently 3480), but we haven’t kept up to maintain constant income, in an effort to be gentle on our already stressed congregations. For 2025, all else remaining the same, to “break even” in 2025 we would need $60.34 *presbytery* per capita (overall $74.24). 2023’s significant accounts receivable gap is a considerable blow and suggests that several congregations are already tapped out. Emphasizing Camp Whitman as a main mission focus, seeking grants, increasing presbytery per capita, reviewing investments, and exploring options across presbyteries would obviously be parts of a diversified strategy for our financial health.

Well before the annual budget season, this is an important conversation for how the Presbytery of Geneva continues to support our congregations as they are Christ in the Finger Lakes.

As always, have at me with questions!

W. David Ashby, Presbytery Treasurer