

December 2019

Dear Friends of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council:

In this Advent season, a time of beginnings, the Finance Leadership Team for the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) wishes to introduce themselves as we work diligently on behalf of the newly created Regional Council and the Communities of Faith within the Region. The committee is comprised of members from each of the former Conferences and we ensure all areas of the Region have a voice at the table.

Attached are ten highlights from the Financial Team as requested at the last Regional meeting.

The Regional Finance Leadership Team has also been given the responsibility of oversight for all actions previously taken by Presbyteries or Conferences. To begin our work, and to be as transparent as possible during this time of transition, we are asking for your assistance in order to ensure we have up-to-date and accurate information.

While we will be following up by examining Presbytery minutes, it is much more efficient to communicate with Communities of Faith directly. We are asking ***that if you hold any funds in-trust that were restricted by your former Presbytery that you forward to us the details of the Fund and the restrictions by December 15th, 2019.*** These funds usually resulted from the sale of church or manse property. We do take note that Four Rivers Presbytery released all restrictions on manse funds.

Please email the Treasurer, Brian Cornelius, at briancornelius@firstunitedchurchottawa.org or you can communicate by mail to 7 Edgar Street, Ottawa, ON K1Y 3K4. ***Also an email indicating that you have no Presbytery restricted funds would be appreciated.***

Finally, should you have any questions about this request or require clarification on any other financial matter, you are invited to contact Rosemary Lambie, Executive minister at RLambie@united-church.ca, the Treasurer, Brian Cornelius, or any member of the Team.

We thank you in advance for helping to ensure our records are up to date, and we look forward to serving the Regional Council in this capacity. Many blessings on your continued ministry.

Yours in Christ,
The Finance Leadership Team of EOORC

Cindy Casey, Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Jessica Hetherington, Bruce Jackson,
Rosemary Lambie (Executive Minister), Margaret Scott, Joe Smarkala, and Ev Zytveld

Ten Budget Highlights from the Finance Committee
of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

1. The Regional Council, along with the rest of the church, has implemented the new financial model where “assessments” pay for the governance of the church and the “Mission and Service Fund” pays for the mission and ministry of the church.
2. The “good news” is that this new financial model has resulted in more money for mission and ministry so that Mission Support in our region has increased and we have more money for mission programming.
3. The “good news” is that this change has resulted in balanced budgets for the Regional Council and there is a commitment to continue with balanced budgets. The total budget from assessments and Mission and Service is \$615,000.
4. The “challenge” is to strengthen congregations so assessments remains strong and increase our givings to Mission and Service Fund so mission and ministry remains strong.
5. The “good news” is that the Regional Council has a Mission Strategy Fund of over \$1 ½ million in protected capital which generates an annual budget of \$60,000 for grants to Regional communities of faith and ministries through the Vision and Transformation Ministry Team.
6. The “good news” is that the Regional Council has a Church Extension Fund with over \$4 million in capital to provide grants and loans to communities of faith and ministries on property matters.
7. The “good news” is that the Regional Council has Youth Funds with nearly \$1 million in capital which generates an annual budget of \$40,000 to support youth ministry.
8. The “good news” is that the Regional Council has included in its annual budget, money to support initiatives from clusters, networks, and Ministry Teams.
9. For your information, the Regional Budget funds three full time positions and one half time position: Minister for Pastoral Relations, Minister for Youth and Young Adults, Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters and Networks; and Communications and Administration Assistant (half/time).
10. The General Council budget funds an Executive Minister; Program Assistant to Executive Minister; Minister for Office of Vocations; Stewardship and Gifts Officer, all full-time positions working for three regions.