

Finance Committee Report of September 21, 2024

Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey

It is with great pleasure that your finance committee can report, our Presbytery is on budget and in solid financial health. We have many important items ongoing, but this report will focus on what information we have promised you and actions the committee has voted on, to implement within our Presbytery committees to ensure proper and transparent accounting of our funds.

Attached to this report are our financials by month through August 2024 as well as our balance sheet. Please note, they have been condensed to summations by leading category. The one standout number on our balance sheet is the \$2,010,000 in outstanding mortgages. These are legacy loans of which two (2) are “non-performing” assets. We are in the process of working with our attorney to find resolution to these 2 mortgages. We hope to report back to this body by the spring of 2025 on possible actions or resolutions.

Through August, we are very much on budget. Our concern, of the approximately \$350,000 left in expenditures remaining for 2024, \$200,000 comes from our shortfall in Per-Capita giving. All we can ask, please consider keeping up with your Per-Capita. It does have a serious impact on our budget as we look to the last quarter of 2024.

The full audit of 2021 has been completed. As expected, we had a few “oddities” that has caused some concern in the Finance Committee. Though the auditors could not find the needed paper work or correspondence on \$123,000, all the money was accounted for and went to ligament Presbytery expenses. However, this has raised concerns that we cannot write checks from phone calls or emails without the proper signatures, explanations and authorizations. We will be asking all the committee to establish written procedures and protocols for the request and authorization for us to distribute money. We know over the last 2 years we have been better about vouchers and authorizations, but the audit highlighted one glaring issue, NOTHING is formalized. We do not have any written procedures in place. We are dealing with a lot of money and we all need to be better in our documentation and details when requesting and distributing money.

We are approaching budget time again. We are asking all the committees to start looking at your plans for 2025. The Finance Committee will be assigning a liaison to each

committee to help with any questions or issues you may have when developing your budget. Please remember, if you do not provide us a number, we will assign a number to you. There is a good chance, you will not like the number assigned. In the financial world, \$0 is never a good number, unless you are talking about debt.

The last point we want to address is directed to the active AC's working on various properties within our Presbytery. We are asking that you include us in your final steps and actions when establishing how and where money goes when a property is sold. Having advanced notice and information of your decisions helps us know where to account and distribute funds, as well as setting us restricted earmarks or trusts for which funds would be distributed over time. We are here to help and knowledge of what you need and want allows us to better serve you.

We also want to welcome Melvin Cadiaon to our Presbytery staff as our new bookkeeper/accountant. Melvin joined us on September 3 as our fulltime accountant. We are looking forward working with Melvin and his success with our Presbytery. We also want to acknowledge Liz Hutchinson for her 2 ½ years of service to our Presbytery. Liz was a 1/3rd time employee on loan to us from Highlands Presbytery. It got to a point that we were as active and busy as Highlands, leading us to Melvin. Thank you, Liz for your work and dedication to our Presbytery.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, we thank all of you for your support and help in making this Presbytery financially responsible and healthy.

In Christ,

Richard J Friedl - Chair

Committee Members:

Denise Kennedy - Treasurer

Judy Tharaud - Asst. Treasurer

Rev. Jen Van Zandt

Martha Day

Ruth Arriaza

Liz Hutchinson - Bookkeeper

Melvin Caliaon - Accountant

