



Presbytery of Carlisle

BUDGET NARRATIVE **2023**



***Carried on the
Spirit's Current***

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- Clark's Ferry Bridge, Sean O'Shell, photographer and Duncannon Appalachian Trail Community member
- Susquehanna River, from Northwest Lancaster County River Trail, Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter



"Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Circling through earth so all may grow
Vanquishing fear so all may give
Widening grace so all may live."

-Eric Law, ***Holy Currencies***

Dear Friends,

In his book ***Holy Currencies***, Eric Law describes a 'Cycle of Blessings' that flow inward and outward, making ministries both missional and sustainable. Although we may think of currency in monetary terms, the currencies that comprise Eric Law's cycle of blessings include time and place, gracious leadership, relationship, truth, wellness and money.

Like the recirculation of resources we see in nature, such as breathing in oxygen/ breathing out carbon dioxide or rains watering the earth and then returning to the clouds - in a dynamic exchange of currencies, there is always enough, in a never-ending cycle of giving and receiving that nourishes and sustains life.

Sometimes, we consider our resources of people, money, time, to be finite resources. And when we see declining numbers of people or diminishing financial resources or flagging energy, we are afraid. With a scarcity mentality, we may contract.

But what happens when we are called into a cycle of blessings? When we participate in the recirculation of resources, what is possible?

Blessings flow. Fear is vanquished. Grace widens. All live.

"Our roles as children of God are to be part of the recirculation of resources so that all living things on earth may share God's abundance." - Eric Law, ***Holy Currencies***

In the pages that follow, we describe some of the currencies in circulation in The Presbytery of Carlisle. Thanks to the generous Per Capita and Mission giving of our Sessions, and the faithful participation of ministers, elders, deacons, trustees and members of congregations, these currencies circulate among us in a flow that activates and sustains God's work among us.

As you peruse these pages, see what happens when these currencies circulate. And let your spirit expand. Carried on the Spirit's current, we are transformed and empowered to thrive as 21st century gospel communities. In the cycle of blessings, we get to participate in God's life-giving, life-sustaining, life-redeeming activity, both within and beyond the walls of our churches!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Cheryl D. Galan
Interim Executive Presbyter

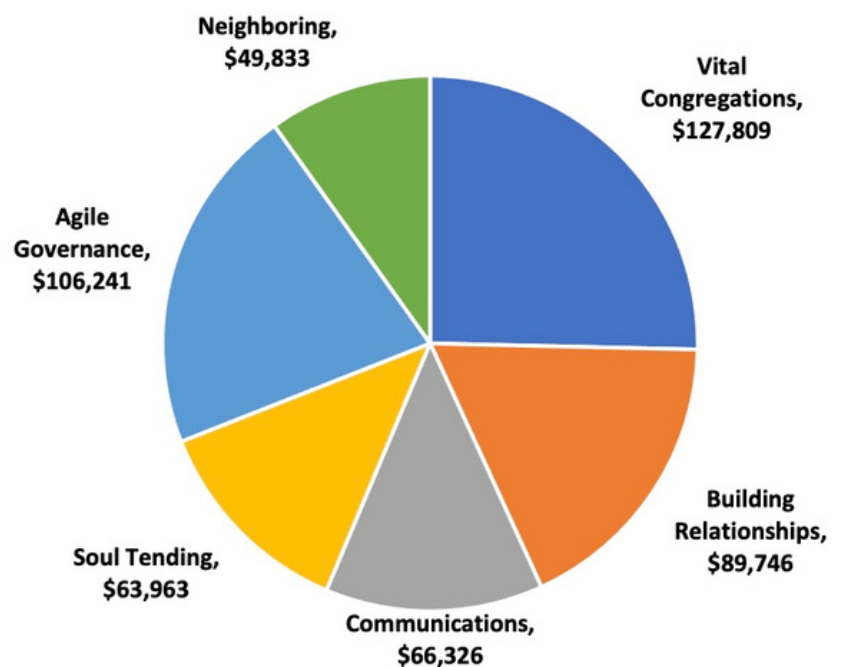
2023 Expense Budget = \$503,918.79
Projected Income = \$503,946

Our presbytery budget tells a story. It reflects our common calling and shared values, within and beyond our congregations.

The pie chart shows how the currencies in circulation throughout our presbytery are reflected in our 2023 budget. It illustrates our intentions for the coming year.

And it challenges us to continually consider Christ's call, that we may discern a purpose larger than our own survival – a purpose that embodies God's healing love for all people and all of creation, especially in light of the compelling needs of our time.

A word about budgeted income: we know the resources of congregations are increasingly stretched, so the 'holy currencies' tapped as income for this budget include the potential use of \$45,500 in anticipated gains from the presbytery's reserves. This, along with the faithful Per Capita, Designated Mission and Shared Mission giving of our Sessions, will keep us moving with the current of God's spirit.



The Currency of Vital Congregations

Thriving in Our Witness

What would God have us do next?

With this question, we launched the PneuMatrix initiative with nine of our congregations, most of whom are in pastoral transitions.



PneuMatrix

Teams from each congregation met monthly to learn about adaptive change and to ponder what they will need next.

In their own words, it was...



Invigorating, Exciting, Daunting, Anxiety-Inducing

Yet, by the end of the process, they reported...

Energy is up and people are willing to take risks.

- Pine Street

We've gone from kicking the can down the road....to taking a serious look at our options.

- Duncannon

We're approaching God with a sense of wonder and hope instead of seeking comfort and status quo...we can't wait to have our first big failure.

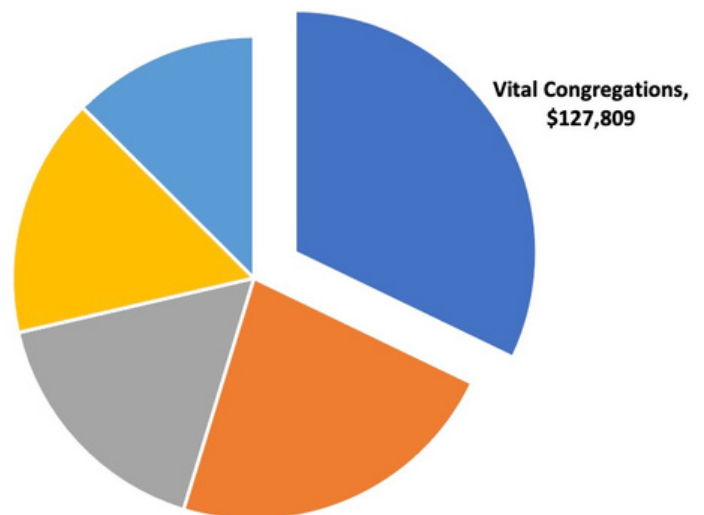
- Middle Spring

Some of these congregations are ready to move forward in the search for a pastor.

Others are asking more questions about themselves and taking time to better understand the needs of the community they seek to serve.

What is the purpose of vital congregations?

To go deeper into following Jesus Christ, so our own lives are changed, our congregations are transformed, and the mission of God spreads through our particular communities and the world.



The Currency of 'Agile Governance'

Moving with the current of God's spirit requires agility!
We live in liminal time - between the breaking down of structures we thought were durable, even 'permanent' and the emergence of new forms of religious expression, education, government, business, community, etc.



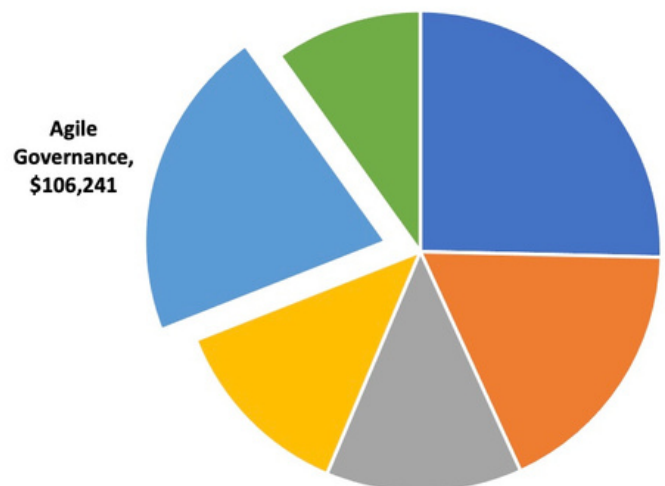
Neal McCulloch, Moderator



As Presbyterians, we stand with one foot in the forms of institutional church we know and love...and one foot on the threshold of God's future yet to be revealed. Our polity gives us a framework of governance. And through our per capita giving and receiving, we participate in a denomination that's adapting to the needs of a changed world. What does agile governance mean for Carlisle Presbytery?

Staffing for A New Normal

A new full-time position called Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership will encompass the role of Stated Clerk (currently part-time) AND will provide leadership and staff energy in critical areas intended to empower the mission of our congregation. A second full-time presbytery leadership position (formerly known as Executive Presbyter) is under development, as we consider and create the structures for a presbytery that continues to adapt a changed world.



Streamlining office operations: We made the move to 2601 N. Front St., where we've occupied two office spaces and now we're down-sizing to one. We got rid of more stuff and donated office supplies and furnishings to churches, individuals and non-profit organizations who could use them. Now we're gearing up to further reduce our storage needs by digitizing our files and records.

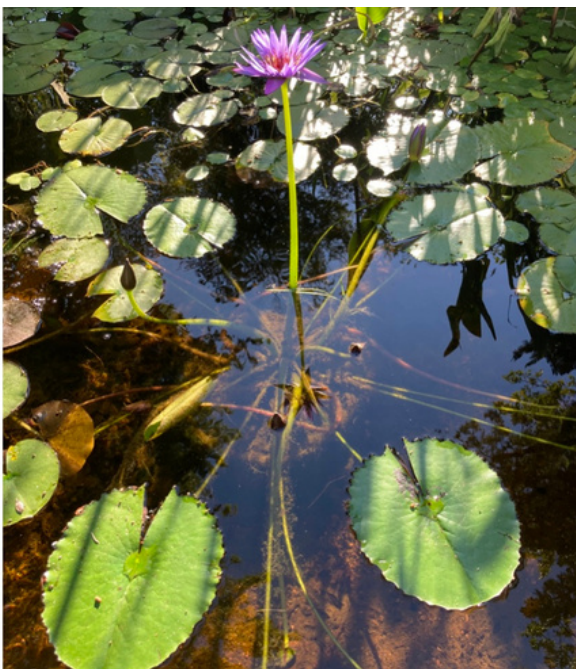


Building-in Flexibility: Gradually, we're revising our by-laws and policy documents and processes to bring greater flexibility to the work we share. And we're not alone! The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved 33 proposed amendments to the Book of Order—including a replacement for the entire Discipline section—to be considered and voted on by the 166 presbyteries prior to July 9, 2023.

Cultivating a culture of risk-taking and experimentation: At this time, over half of the churches of the presbytery are in pastoral transitions; some can no longer afford a full-time pastor, while others are eliminating or revising positions formerly held by an ordained pastor. With a denomination-wide shortage of pastors and as church membership/attendance continues to decline, we must experiment with different models of leadership. Some Sessions find pastoral leadership across denominations.



Ruling Elder Kemper Dyson, Young Adult Advisory Delegate from Middle Spring Participates in the 225th General Assembly.



Some link to share a pastor. Others are served by a Commissioned Ruling Elder. As we move with the current of the Spirit, through models such as these, we're learning to reach across generations, races and cultures, faiths, and our particular congregations.

What is the purpose of our agile governance?

That we may reflect the goodness, wisdom, beauty and love our Creator intends for us... and for all of Creation!

The Currency of Relationship:

A Place at the Table



What do you love about your church? The people, right? We love the friendships, the prayer support, the meaning we find in Christian community. Whether in person or on-line, we love coming together to worship God. When the currency of relationship pulses through us, we are energized. This currency is not meant to be kept for ourselves, in our comfortable circles of family, friends and congregation.

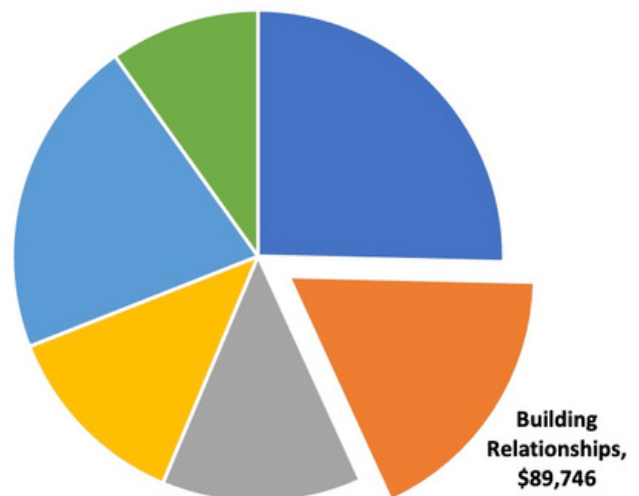
What does it look like when the currency of relationship circulates to those marginalized, whom Jesus calls 'the least of these?'
(Matthew 25:45)



A cooling shower on a hot day
Downtown Daily Bread



A warming bowl of soup in the dead of winter
McConnellsburg Presbyterian Church



Breakfast for the Homeless
At Market Square with Capital partnering



New Shelter After a Storm



Blessing Boxes, Community Gardening and Crop Gleaning!



Westminster



Capital



Crop Gleaning at Second



Community Garden
at Monaghan



What is the purpose of our relationship-building? **That we may pursue justice and participate in the beloved community the Spirit of Christ is creating in the world.**

The Currency of Communication

Common Calling. Common Values.

Do we believe that we have a stake in one another...that what holds us together is greater than what separates us?

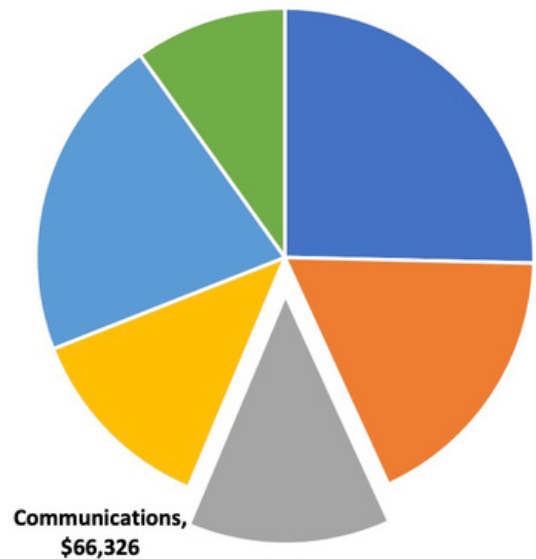
When we lift our gaze beyond our individual congregations, we see common values in action, across the presbytery. These common values fuel the actions that shape our witness. We are unique congregations, in different communities, gifted by the spirit to show and tell about God's love for all.



Courage - We're depending on the Spirit as we cultivate an adventurous climate for taking risks. It's time to do something different, so we're launching experiments that stretch us into new relationships and new endeavors, for the sake of the gospel.



Market Square Youth Rock Climbing



Compassion - Across generations, we're offering ourselves in acts of unselfish devotion that honor and value others and all of creation. We're making space for engagement with others, especially those who have been marginalized by society.



Gettysburg



Silver Spring



Centre

Creativity - We're using our imaginations to tap into God's creative impulse in the world. We're moving outside traditional structures to generate new expressions of the gospel. We're exploring music, the arts, gardening, stories, movies and metaphors, that space may be opened for a dynamic experience of God.



What is the purpose of our communication? To lift up our common calling and make visible our common values, that we can participate together and partner in God's saving, healing work.

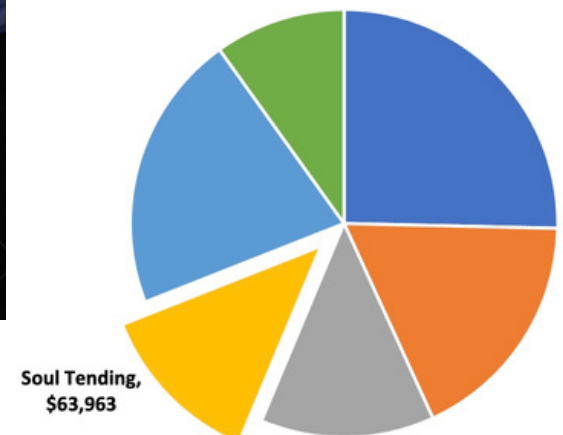
The Currency of Soul Tending

Our lifeline to God

It's not only through Spirit-Inspired worship - at Table, font or pulpit, through music and metaphor, in visual imagery and spoken words of prayer - that we receive the grace that sustains us.



Baptism at Derry



It may also be as we experience wonder and beauty in the world God made and loves. Or, in quiet contemplation or embodied action that we tend our souls.



What is the purpose of our soul-tending?
**That we may be lifted out of ourselves and
held together in God's love.**



Soul-Tending at Krislund



Commissioning to General Assembly at Gettysburg

The Currency of Neighboring

a.k.a. Christ's Mission in Action

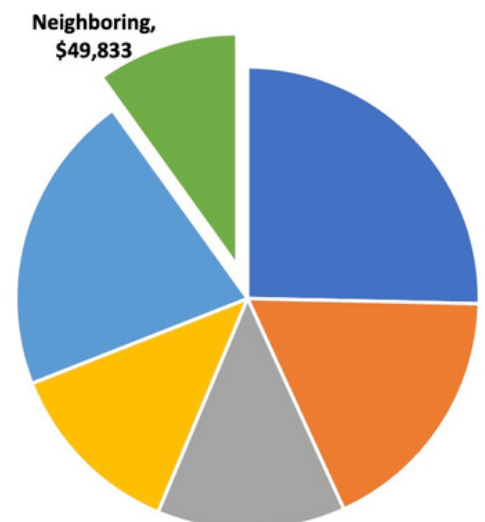


In a sermon preached for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Inquirer Rebecca Lister (St. Andrews Presbyterian Church) ignited our imaginations when she spoke about 'neighboring' as a verb and defined it as actions of seeing, welcoming, and receiving all as beloved children of God. She further cautioned us about neighboring that's about attracting people to fill our pews and budgets. What is the purpose of our neighboring? **That as we receive and welcome our neighbor, we all may receive God.**

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, in Lebanon, recently created Spark Park, a place for everyone to be neighbored in the joy of childhood.

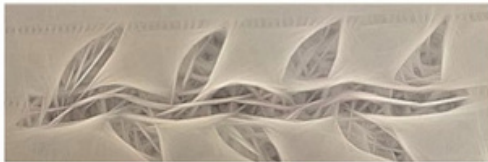


All summer long, Spark Park has been a place where neighboring brought the church and community together for games, activities and other playful experiences.





Intertwined: a faith community



Intertwined is the name for a new 'Neighboring' initiative in our presbytery. Candidate Kevin Long (Market Square) is following a sense of call to create a **new worshiping community** that will explore the intersection of faith and the environment. This community will not be based in a building, but in common concern for a world injured by climate change. In early stages of formation, you can find Intertwined online, [here](#).

This is also a new initiative for the presbytery, as we walk alongside Kevin, 'neighboring' those who have not yet found a place in the church in its current forms.



Neighboring at Harrisburg Pride Festival and Mechanicsburg Community Day



“When you send forth your Spirit
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.”
Psalm 104:30

Photo credit: Vern Gauthier