

# **Vermont Conference Annual Meeting 2012**

Conference Financial  
Status, 2012 and  
2013 Budget  
Resolutions

# 2011 Review

- Operating Expenses for the year were \$39K under budget, however Operating Income \$43K under budget
- While Per Capita contributions held steady, OCWM decreased by \$11K while the budget anticipated a \$30K increase
- Conference ended year with a small budget deficit (\$3,819) after four straight years of surpluses

# 2011 Review

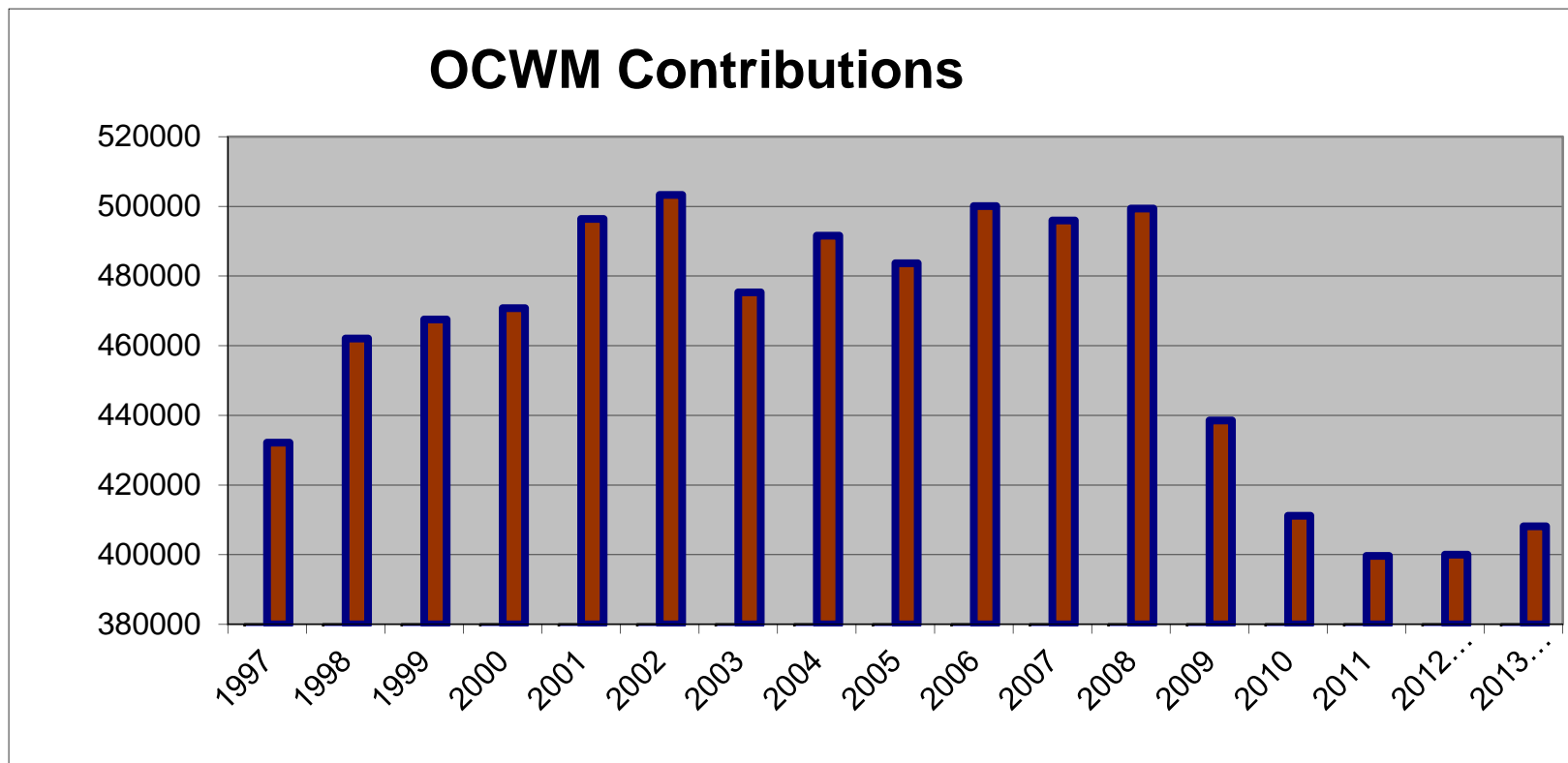
- OCWM Contributions fell for the third straight year, down \$99,700 from 2008 (-20%).
- 2011 OCWM came in 7% under the already-adjusted-downward budget
- The decrease in OCWM is the single biggest factor in budget results – and future budget discussions.

# 2011 Review

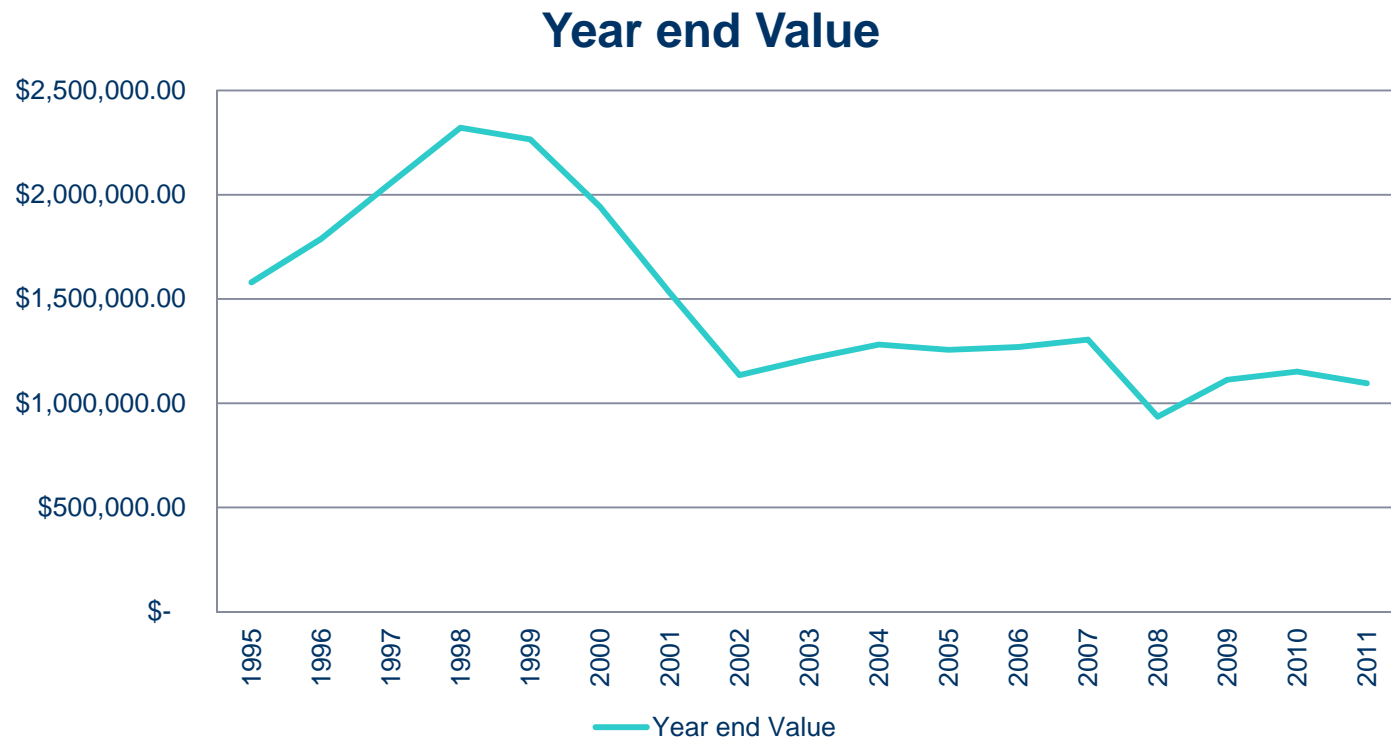
## Something to Ponder:

- If every church contributed 10% of their Operating Expense Budget to OCWM (5% for federated churches) we would have received \$1,100,000+ instead of \$399,682
- If every church paid their Per Capita, we would have received \$159,131 instead of \$143,895

# How has support for the wider church changed in the past 15 years?

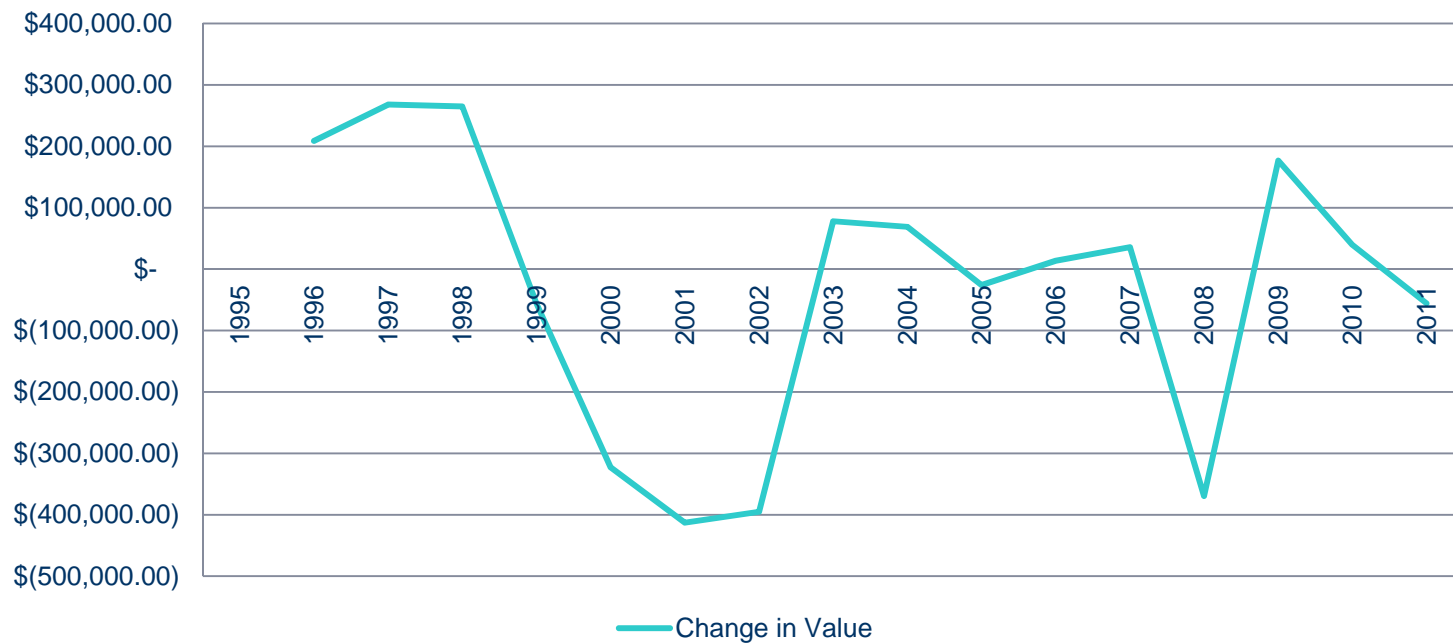


# How has our use of the Unrestricted Fund changed in the past 15 years?

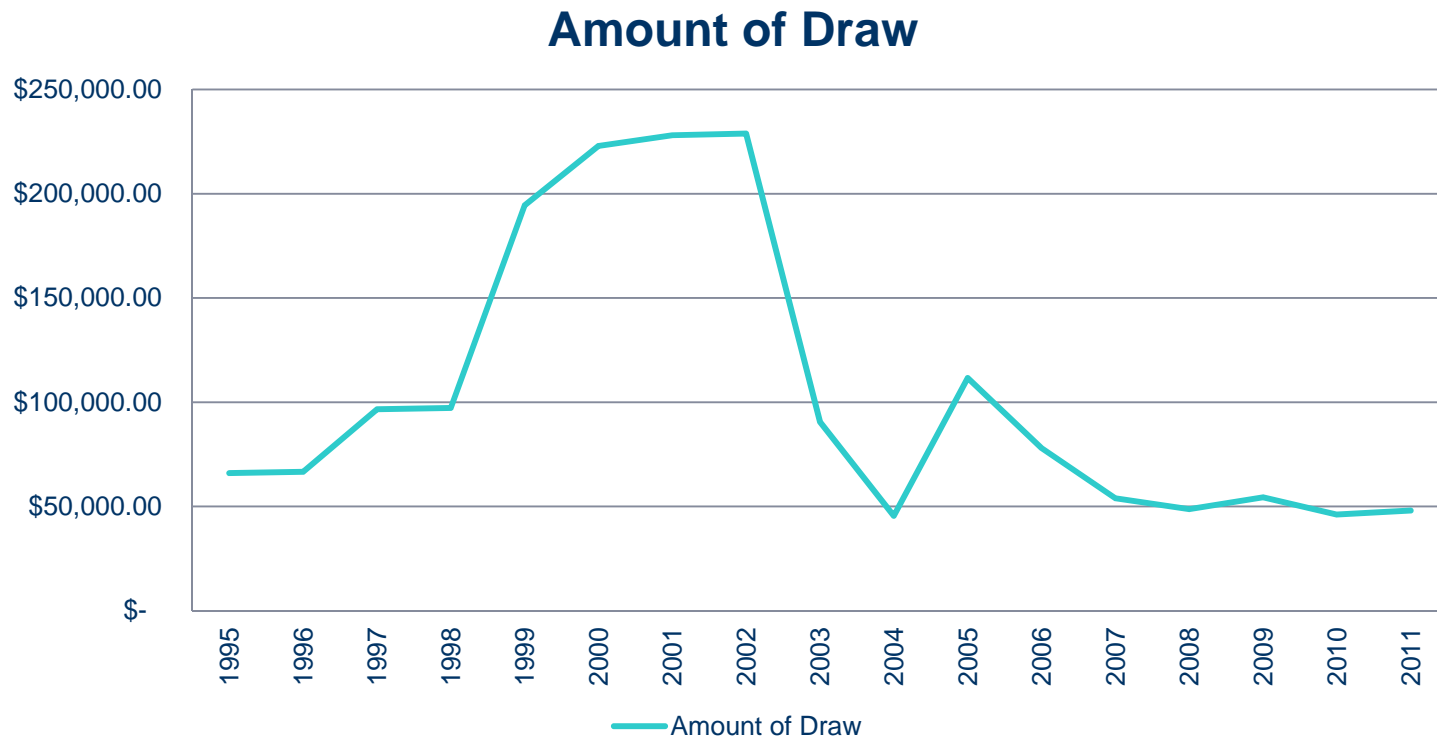


# How has our use of the Unrestricted Fund changed in the past 15 years?

Change in Value



# How has our use of the Unrestricted Fund changed in the past 15 years?





## 2012 Budget Revisions – Document “H”

- Staffing reductions and other cutbacks in 2005-6 set the stage for four straight years of budget surpluses
- The economy downturn in 2008 has had a significant impact on OWCM received
- Even with the reduction in sharing ratio, more needs to be done

## 2012 Budget Revisions – Document “H”

- The Finance Committee and Board of Directors have explored several possible options to relieve pressure on the budget
- Conference Office mortgage is more than \$24K expense per year – and \$10K of that is interest
- Proposal: Transfer \$155K from unrestricted endowment to pay off mortgage

## 2012 Budget Revisions – Document “H”

- Transfer vs. Withdrawal
- Saves \$10K per year of interest payments
- Removes \$24K of expense from budget
- Reduces slightly the available draw in outgoing years

## 2012 Budget Revisions – Document “H”

- 217 Years of Faithful Ministry Campaign
- Affirms value of the unrestricted fund and seeks to replace (+ some!) money transferred to pay off the mortgage
- Campaign begins today!
- Seeks contributions in increments of \$217 which will be deposited into the unrestricted fund

## **2012 Budget Resolutions – Document “H”**

**1.) That the BOD be authorized to transfer an amount not to exceed \$155,000 from the conference unrestricted funds for the sole purpose of retiring the mortgage on the conference office located at 36 N. Main St. in Randolph, VT no later than July 2, 2012. Because this is a transfer of assets there is no requirement that the money must be repaid to the unrestricted fund.**

## 2012 Budget Resolutions – Document “H”

**2.) That the Annual Meeting enthusiastically endorse the campaign to raise \$217,000 in recognition of 217 years of faithful ministry of the Vermont Conference and its churches.**

*These two resolutions are moved now – discussion and voting will take place during Plenary Session IV, Sunday morning.*

## 2013 Budget – Document “E”

- Expects that income will begin a modest recovery from the low points of 2009-2011 (but is still anticipated to be well below 2008 levels)
- Payoff of mortgage on Conference Office reduces expenses by more than \$24K. NOTE: *The 2013 budget assumes that the resolutions on the 2012 budget (Document H) are passed.* If those resolutions are not passed, the 2013 budget will require major revisions, likely beyond the scope of this meeting.

## 2013 Budget – Document “E”

- Contributions to Basic Support for Our Church’s Wider Mission are expected to begin to rebound from 2011 lows ( a modest 2%)
- Per Capita income is expected to hold steady
- All department budgets are increased to support additional or enhanced mission and ministry
- Compensation of staff line is increased to allow for expected increases in health care costs and a 3% cost of living increase.



## 2013 Budget – Document “E”

- The 2013 budget continues a sharing ratio of 65% of OCWM for the Conference, and 35% for the national setting.
- The 2013 projects operating income and expenses of \$693,185

## **Soooo....**

# **What do you get for \$693,185?**

- \$142,851 of direct support for the National setting of the United Church of Christ
- Pastoral Search and Call – in 2012, more than 20 churches were in the midst of a search process
- The Resource Center – a collection of over 4,500 books and audio/visual materials – including special collections for VAST and Diversity
- Financial Support for the Atkinson Residence for the Retired in Newbury

# **Soooo....**

## **What do you get for \$693,185?**

- Communications; including E-KIT, E-Event, E-Link, Faithful Stewards, DoM Newsletter,
- Conference Website, with a presence for every congregation, and Facebook page
- Financial, volunteer, and programmatic support to Covenant Hills Christian Camp
- Training and resources on Stewardship, Church Vitality, and support for Legacy Churches

# Soooo....

## What do you get for \$693,185?

- Support for regional and national youth events
- Annual Clergy Convocation
- Financial support to the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
- Seed money for 17 local churches to provide Summer Lunch Programs
- Church Growth and Vitality Gatherings – such as the Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 2012 **Email, Websites, Social Networks: Oh, My!** event

# Soooo....

## What do you get for \$693,185?

- The work of critical groups, including:
  - Just Peace Advocates
  - Prison Justice Committee
  - Healing Committee
  - Ministerial Standing and Standards
  - Nominating Committee
  - Annual Meeting Planning Committee
  - And many, many more

# Soooo....

## How can you help?

- Take what you learn here and share it with your local congregation – you are our local church evangelists – sharing the good news of the Conference and United Church of Christ
- Encourage the strengthening of our mutual covenant – by inviting your Association and Conference into the life of your congregation, and expanding the circle of local church members involved in the life of the wider church

# Soooo....

## How can you help *Personally*?

Commit to supporting the mission and ministry of your  
Conference by becoming a

### *Friend of the Vermont Conference*

- Your opportunity to directly support the Conference and our call to Go Out in Joy!
- Thank you** to those of you who are already supporting us!!
- Please accept this invitation from the Board of Directors and Staff, all of whom already contribute.
- See Rona Kinsley or Carole Carlson at the display table to learn more or become a *Friend of the Vermont Conference*!

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

1.) That the division of undesignated Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission income for 2013 be 65% for the Vermont Conference and 35% for the United Church of Christ beyond Vermont.



## Financial Resolutions – Document I

2.) That the Vermont Conference share with the national setting of the United Church of Christ 65% of any operating budget surplus at the conclusion of the 2013 fiscal year.

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

3.) That the Conference continues to encourage each church to increase its Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission by 1% per year of its operating budget expenses; moving toward a full tithe (10%) and beyond if possible.

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

4.) That the 2013 Vermont Per Capita be set at \$11.87

(Note: The association portion of Per Capita is in addition to the Conference amount.)

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

5.) That the churches be encouraged to pay Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission and Per Capita at least quarterly.

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

6.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to take funds from the unrestricted reserves for any emergency deficit in 2013.

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

7.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to adjust the 2013 operating budget as unforeseen circumstances require, within the spending limits established in the budget.

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

8.) That the Conference adopt a 2013 Operating Budget of not more than \$693,185 in expense and not less than \$693,185 in income, with the goal of ending 2013 with a balanced budget.

## Financial Resolutions – Document I

*These eight resolutions are moved now – discussion and voting will take place during Plenary Session IV, Sunday morning.*