

# Vermont Conference Annual Meeting 2010

---

Conference Financial Status and  
2011 Budget Resolutions



# 2009 Review

---

## **The Good:**

- Operating Expenses for the year were \$80K under budget
- Mortgage for Conference Office re-negotiated, lowering interest rate and payment
- Printing costs significantly reduced through utilization of electronic media whenever possible
- Friends of the Vermont Conference donations up 12%
- Unrestricted Investment Fund increased in value 32% from lowest point (Feb 2009)



# 2009 Review

---

## **The Bad:**

- The 2009 budget was revised in anticipation of reduced expectations due to the economy, including:
  - Changing the sharing ratio of Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) with the national setting (voted by delegates at 2009 Annual Meeting)
  - Reductions in expectations for contributions to (OCWM)
  - Reduction in expected income from Per Capita
- Despite these corrections, Operating Income for 2009 was nearly \$60K under budget



# 2009 Review

---

## **The Ugly:**

- Contributions to OCWM were \$438,530, verses a revised budget of \$495,000, an 11% shortfall. (2008 OCWM was \$499,382)
- Contributions to Per Capita were \$138,280, verses a revised budget of \$147,325, a 6% shortfall. (2008 Per Capita was \$145,434)



# 2009 Review

---

## Something to Ponder:

- If every church contributed 10% of their Operating Expense Budget to OCWM (5% for federated churches) we would have received \$1,200,000+ instead of \$438,530
- If every church paid their Per Capita, we would have received \$154,220 instead of the \$147,325



# 2009 Review

---

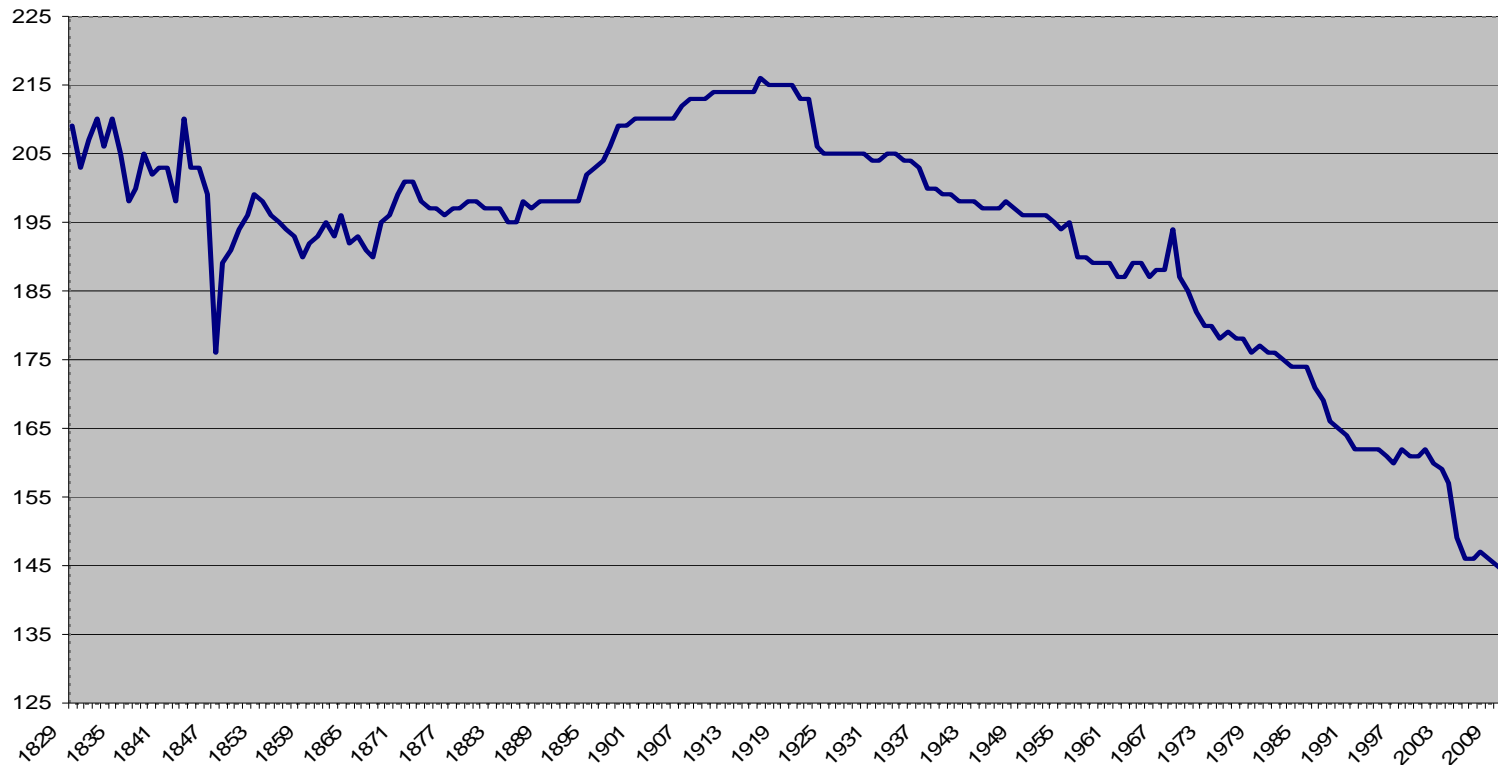
## Something to Ponder:

- 50 years ago, at the 1960 Annual Meeting, contributions from our congregations to OCWM totaled \$127,057, against their total expense budgets of \$1,008,800
- That's an *average* of 13%, with some churches receiving awards for contributing 20, 25, and even 30% of their operating expense budget. In 2009, only five churches gave 10% or more.



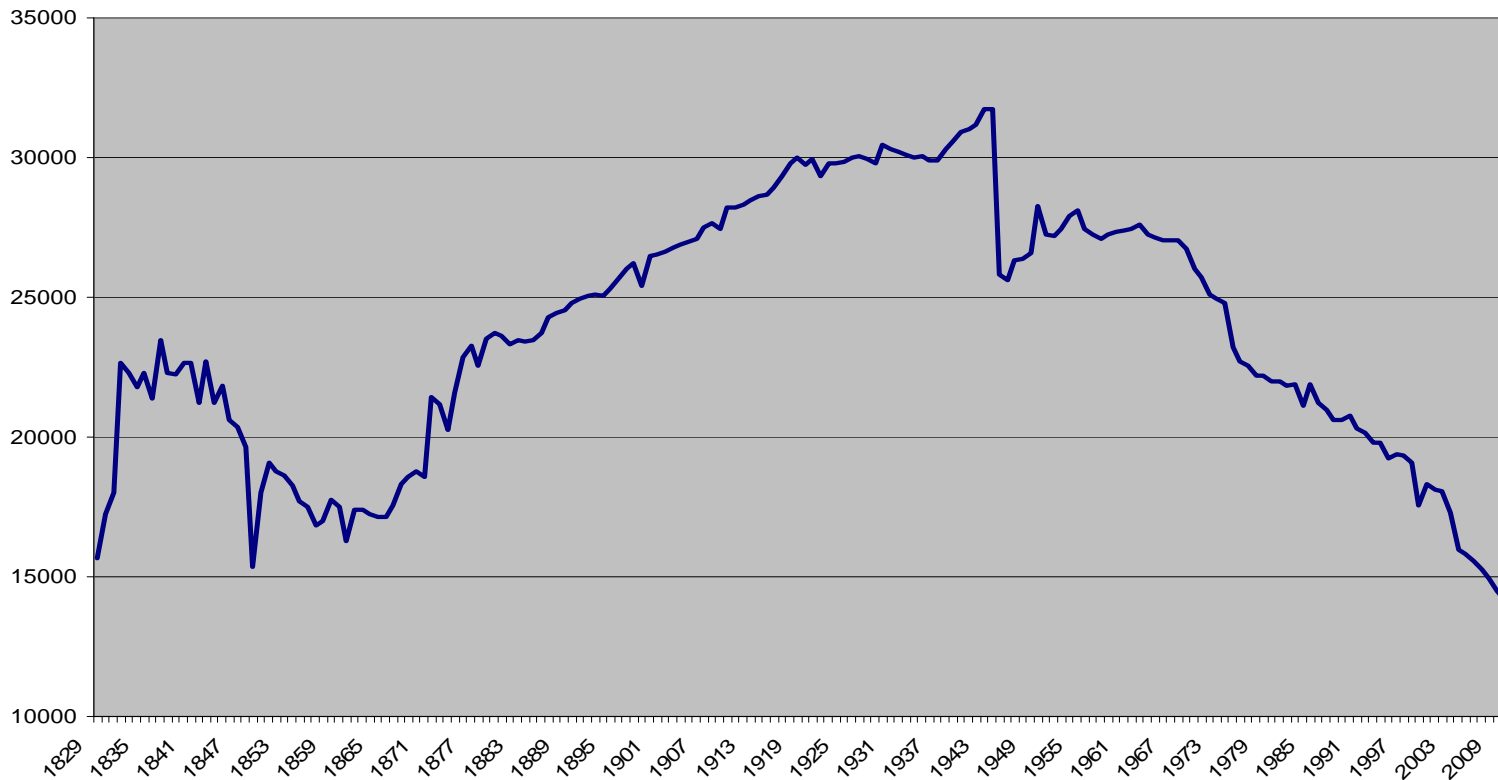
# How did we get to this place?

Number of Churches



# How did we get to this place?

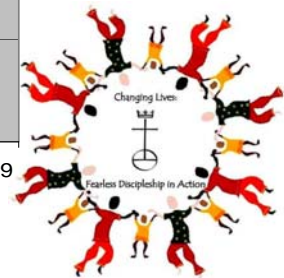
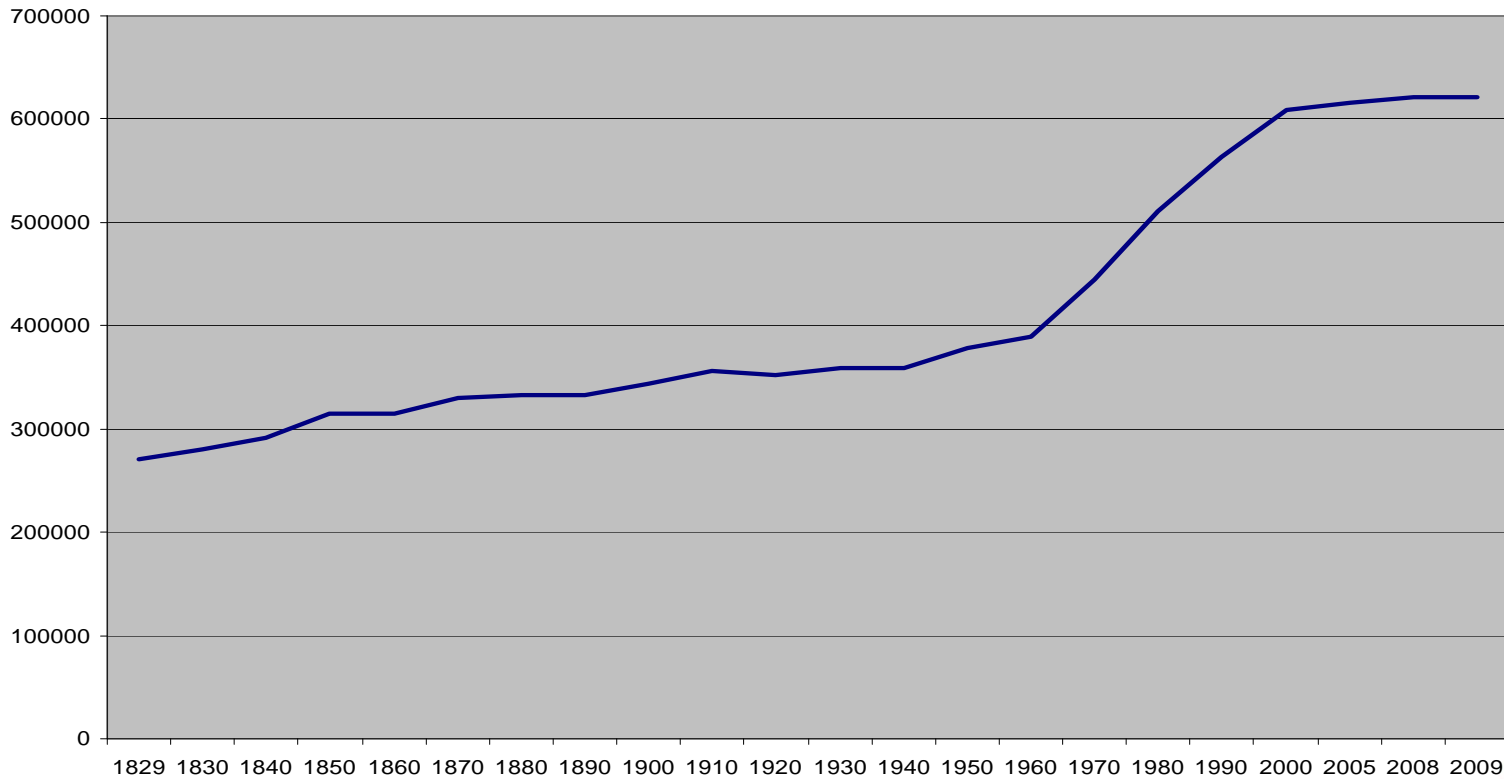
Number of Members





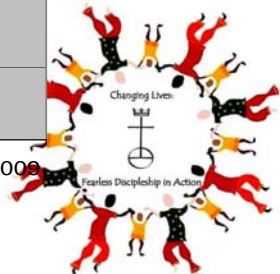
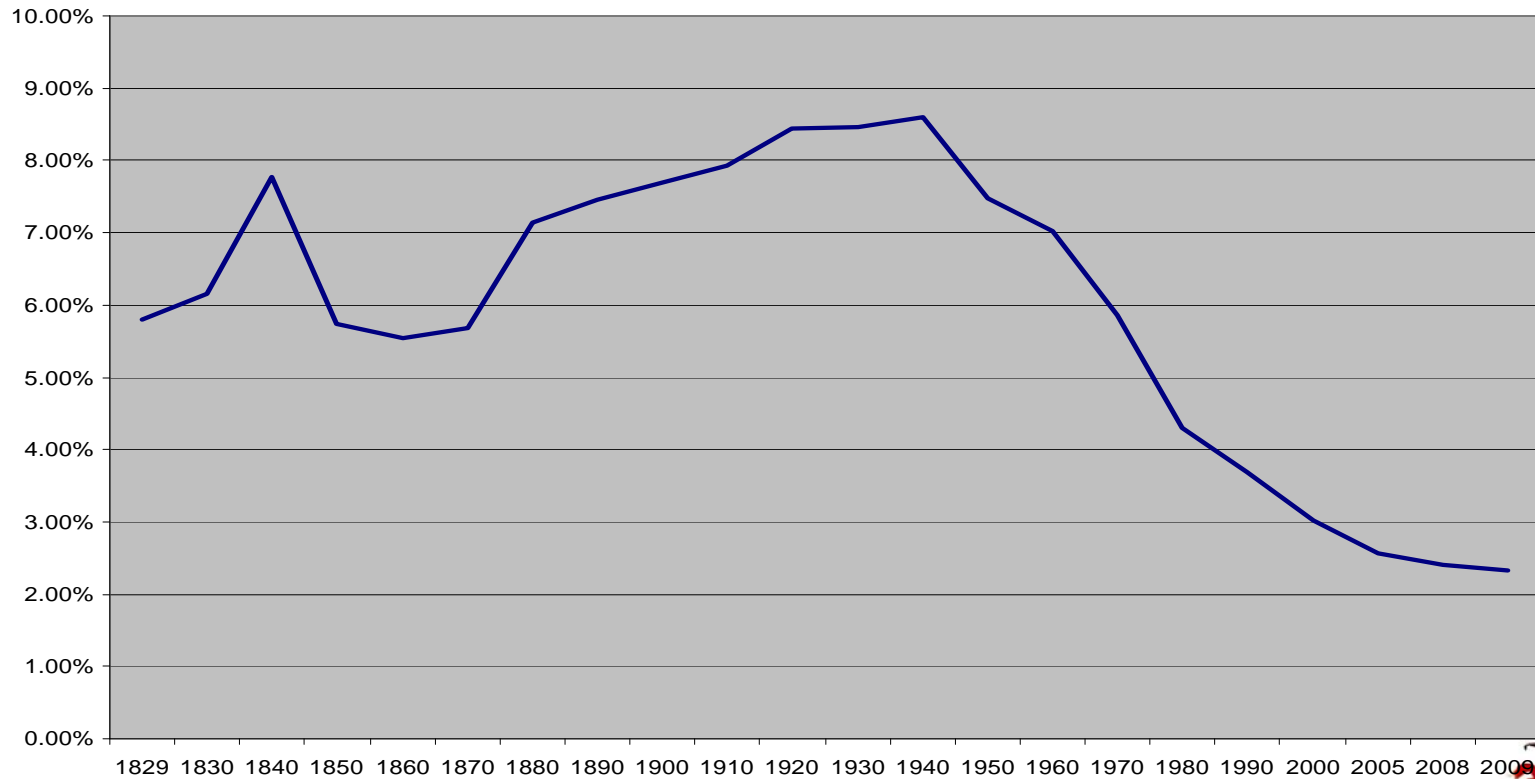
# How did we get to this place?

Vermont Population

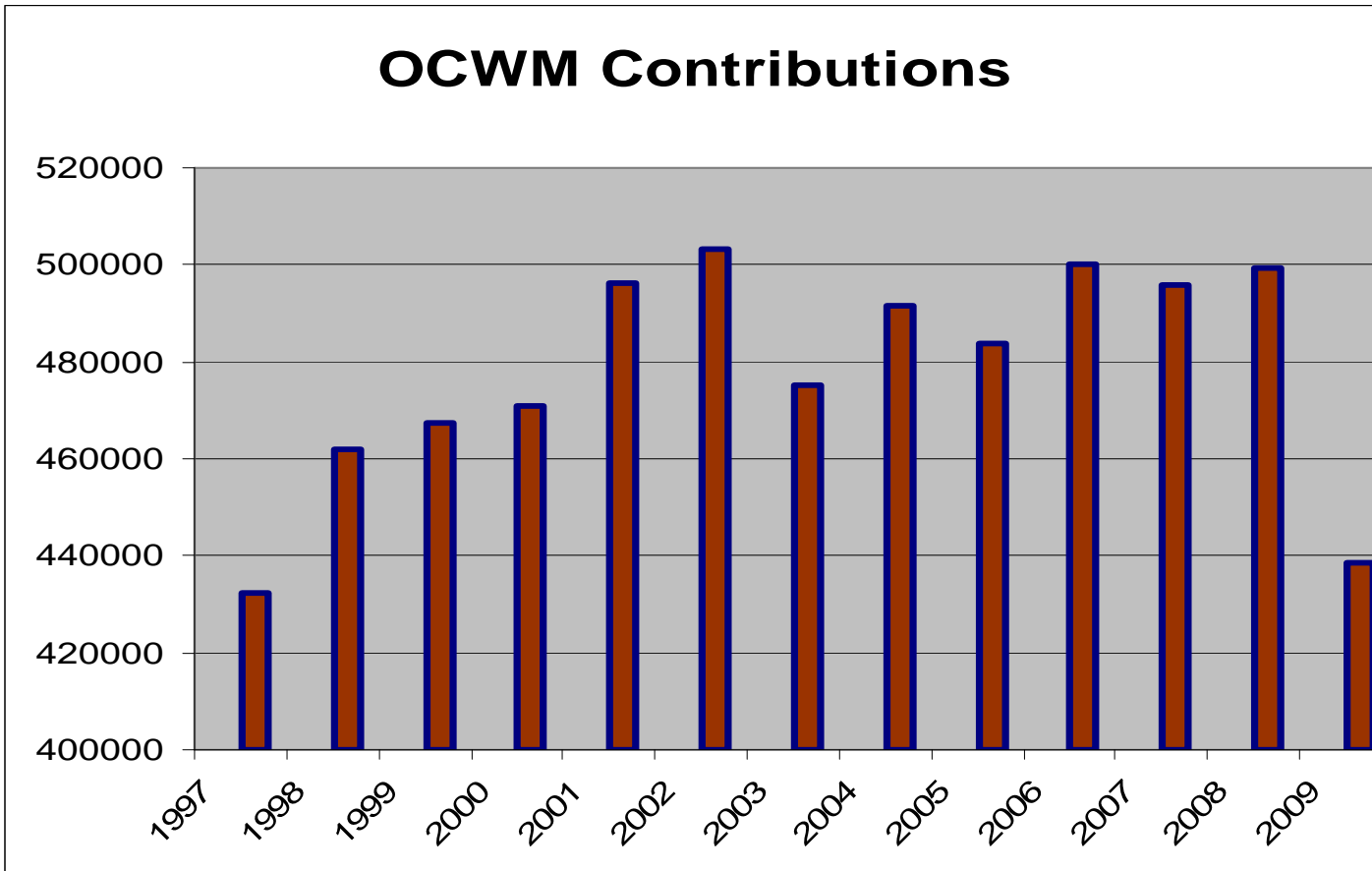


# How did we get to this place?

Percent of Population



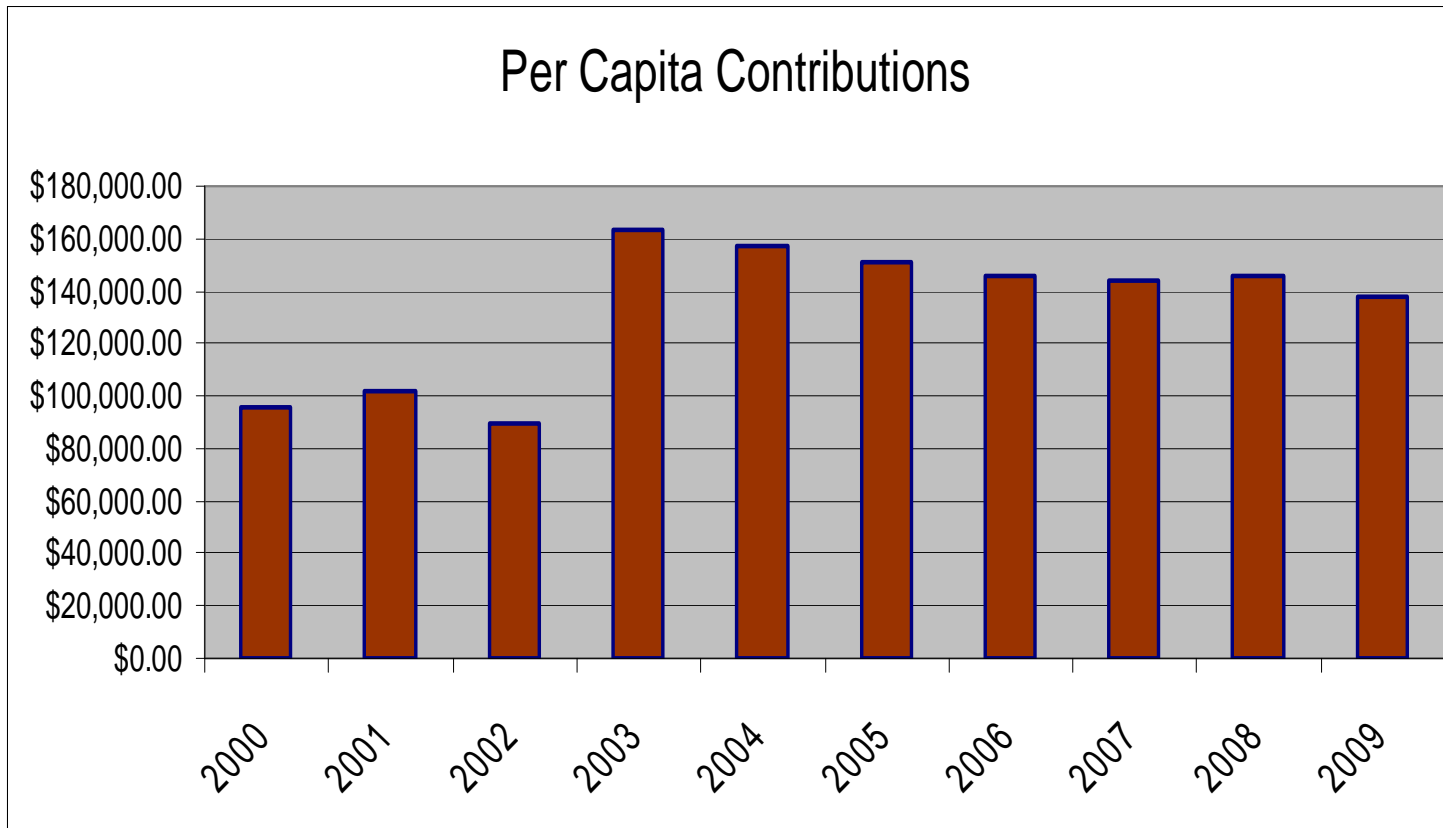
# How has support for the wider church changed in the past 12 years?



After increasing by 1% in 2008, OCWM decreased by 12% in 2009



# How has support for the wider church changed in the past 12 years?



After increasing by 1% in 2008, Per Capita resumed its annual decline in 2009 (4.9%)



# 2010 Budget Revisions - Document “E”

---

Given the income shortfalls in 2009, the 2010 budget has been revised to reflect more realistic expectations for income, with corresponding reductions on the expense side.

*Note: the division of sharing of OCWM was **not** changed*



# 2011 Budget – Document “E”

---

- Continues the expectation that income will maintain its recovery from the low point of 2009 (but is still anticipated to be below 2008 levels)
- Expenses have been pared as much as possible
- Budget projects a balance for 2011



# 2011 Budget – Document “E”

---

- For this to be possible, congregations must restore cuts made in mission giving in 2009
- Conference investments have recovered most of the losses suffered during the economic downturn
- Many changes to local church budgets were made in anticipation of a worsening economy, not the actuality of it, which was smaller than expected and short lived
- Research shows that contributions to non-profits increased in 2009 – and many of our churches ended the year in a significantly better financial position than expected



# 2011 Budget – Document “E”

---

- Financial Documents packet includes a narrative budget presentation
- Narrative Budget gives a description of each income and expense line
- 2011 budget is balanced, with an expected increase of 4% in income and expenses compared to 2010





# Soooo....

## What do you get for \$772,497?

---

- \$195,200 of direct support for the National setting of the United Church of Christ
- Pastoral Search and Call – in 2009, 34 churches were in the midst of a search process
- The Resource Center – a collection of over 1,000 books and audio/visual materials – including special collections for VAST and URTF
- Financial Support for the Atkinson Residence for the Retired in Newbury



# Soooo....

## What do you get for \$772,497?

---

- Communications; including E-KIT, E-Event, E-Link, Faithful Stewards, DoM Newsletter, and a quarterly printed bulletin insert with news of our local churches
- Conference Website, with a presence for every congregation
- Financial, volunteer, and programmatic support to Covenant Hills Christian Camp



Soooo....

What do you get for \$772,497?

---

- Support for regional and national youth events
- Annual Clergy Convocation
- Financial support to the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
- Seed money for 15 local churches to provide Summer Lunch Programs
- Church Growth/Stewardship Gatherings – such as the May 1<sup>st</sup> Sacred Stories Remembered, Told, and Lived Event



Soooo....

What do you get for \$772,497?

---

- 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 be about Changing Lives.
- 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 during Annual Meeting to learn more or become a *Friend of the Vermont Conference!*



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

1. That the division of undesignated Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission income for 2011 be 60% for the Vermont Conference and 40% for the United Church of Christ beyond Vermont.



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

2. That the Conference continue to encourage a Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission goal for each church of an amount equal to 10% of the amount of each church's budget for current expenses. Further, a recommended challenge goal is to increase that local church's ratio percentage by 1% per year.





# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

3. That the 2011 Vermont Per Capita be set at \$11.36.

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



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

4. That the Board of Directors be authorized to adjust the 2011 operating budget as unforeseen circumstances require, within the spending limits established in the budget.



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

5. That the Board of Directors be authorized to take funds from the unrestricted reserves for any emergency deficit in 2011.



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

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



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

7. That the Conference adopt a 2011 Operating Budget of not more than \$772,497 in expense and not less than \$772,497 in income, with the goal of ending 2011 with a balanced budget.



# Financial Resolutions – Document F

---

Voting on the Financial Resolutions will be held during Plenary Session V, Saturday morning.

