

Vermont Conference Annual Meeting 2011

Conference Financial
Status and
2012 Budget
Resolutions



2010 Review

- Operating Expenses for the year were \$58K under budget
- Printing costs significantly reduced through utilization of electronic media whenever possible
- Friends of the Vermont Conference donations more than twice 2009 contributions
- Per Capita contributions 3% over budget
- Conference ended year with a slight budget surplus (\$679); the fourth straight year in the black

2010 Review

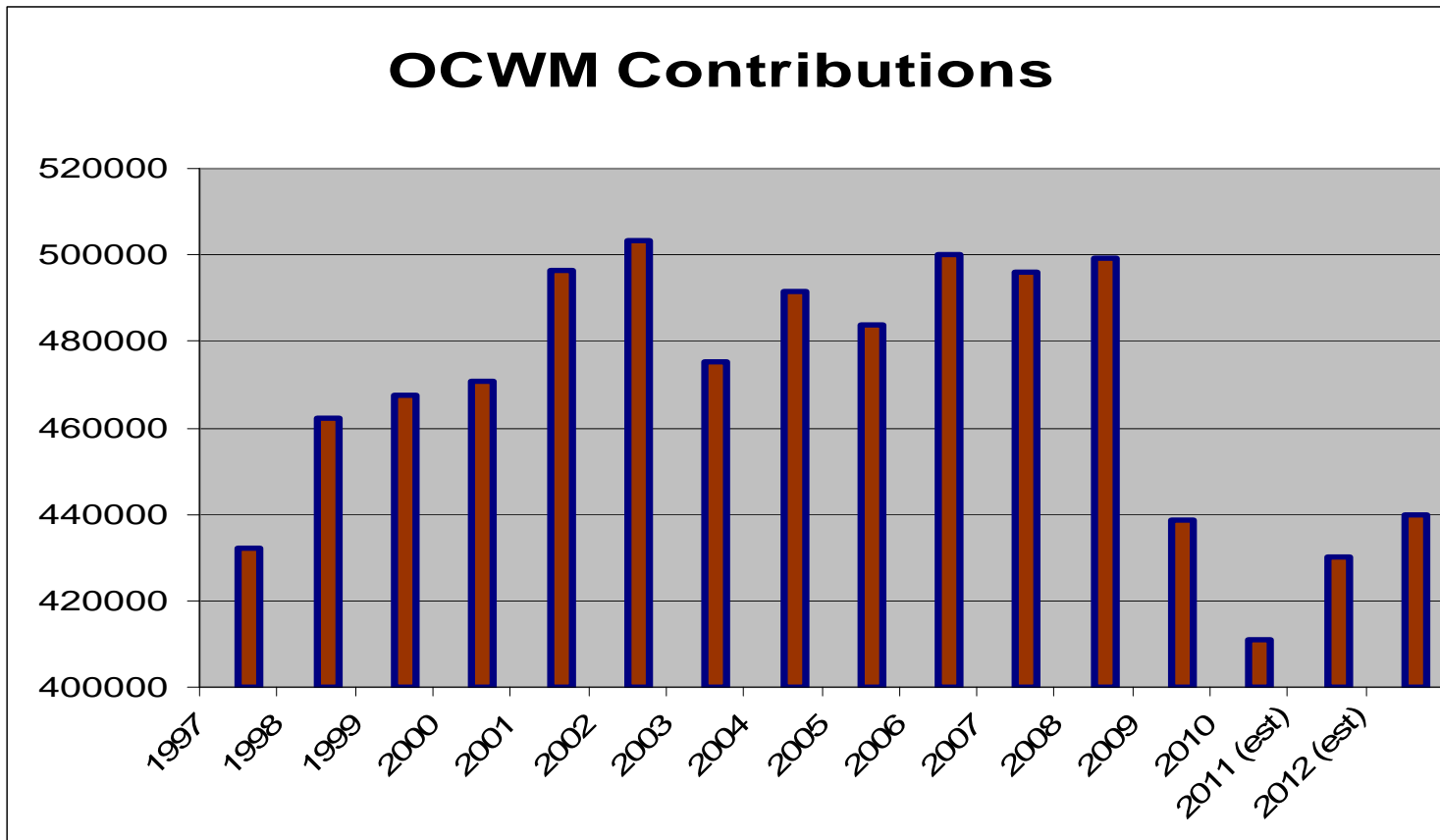
- An unrestricted \$11K gift from the former United Church of Putney was applied to the 2010 books, without which we would have ended the year with a deficit
- Operating Income for 2010 was \$38K under budget
- OCWM Contributions continued to fall, down \$27K from 2009, down \$88,200 from 2008 (-20%). 2010 OCWM came in 12% under the already-adjusted-downward budget

2010 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 \$411,177
- If every church paid their Per Capita, we would have received \$155,704 instead of \$144,154

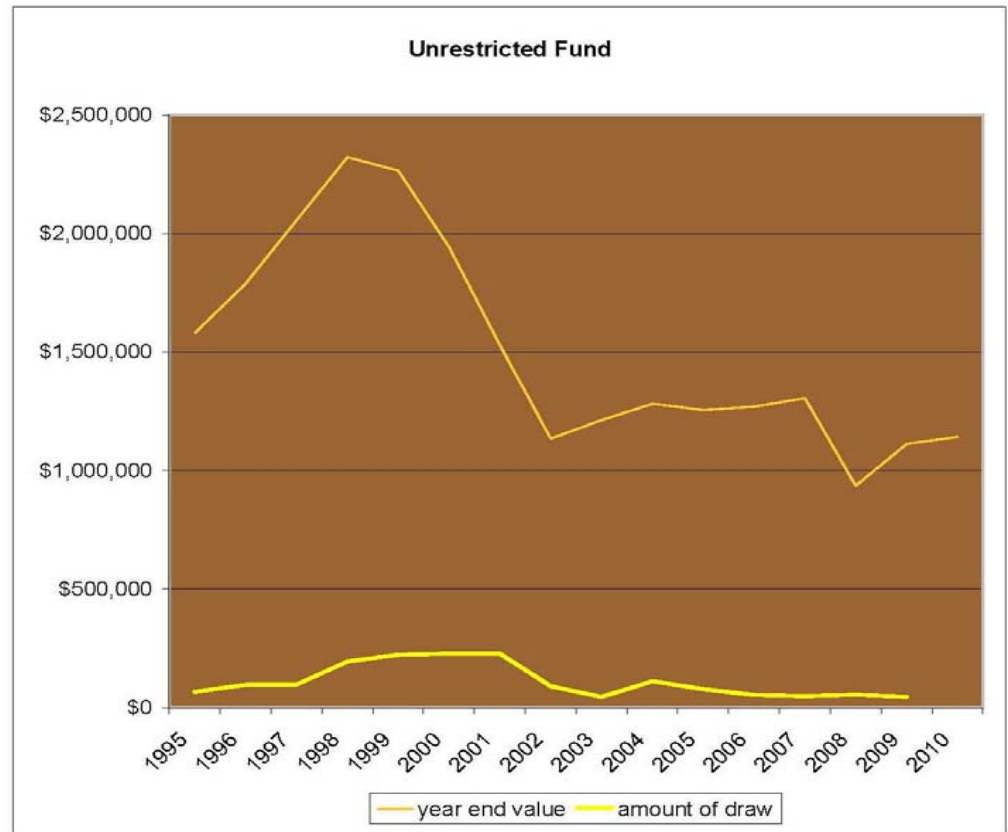
How has support for the wider church changed in the past 13 years?



How has our use of the Unrestricted Fund changed in the past 12 years?

Value of Unrestricted Fund and Amount of Draw 1996-2010

YEAR	YEAR END VALUE	NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	AMOUNT OF "DRAW"
1995	\$1,580,060		
1996	\$1,788,799	\$208,739	\$66,637
1997	\$2,056,884	\$268,085	\$96,653
1998	\$2,321,653	\$264,769	\$97,216
1999	\$2,265,481	(\$56,172)	\$194,460
2000	\$1,942,771	(\$322,710)	\$222,931
2001	\$1,529,953	(\$412,818)	\$228,069
2002	\$1,134,845	(\$395,108)	\$228,825
2003	\$1,212,921	\$78,076	\$90,573
2004	\$1,281,898	\$68,977	\$45,526
2005	\$1,256,045	(\$25,853)	\$111,692
2006	\$1,269,587	\$13,542	\$78,068
2007	\$1,305,411	\$35,824	\$53,922
2008	\$935,692	(\$369,720)	\$48,764
2009	\$1,112,544	\$176,852	\$54,414
2010	\$1,141,748	\$29,204	\$46,112



2011 Budget Revisions – Document “E”

Given the income shortfalls in 2010, the 2011 budget has been revised to reflect more realistic expectations for income. To re-balance the budget, reductions on the expense side were made in several areas.

2012 Budget – Document “E”

- Expects that income will begin its recovery from the low points of 2009-2010 (but is still anticipated to be below 2008 levels)
- Expenses have been pared as much as possible
- Budget projects a balance for 2012

2012 Budget – Document “E”

- For this to be possible, contributions to Basic Support for Our Church’s Wider Mission must begin to rebound from 2010 lows.
- Conference staffing has already been reduced to half of the level of the early 2000’s, and no further cuts are practical without seriously impacting mission and ministry.
- Additionally, balancing the budget for 2012 required either a return to the overspending of our endowment, or an adjustment to the OCWM sharing ratio with the national setting.

2011 Budget – Document “E”

- The 2012 budget proposes a sharing ratio of 65% of OCWM for the Conference, and 35% for the national setting.
- Change from 60% Conference, 40% national in 2011 budget
- Represents a \$22K increase in income for the Conference, and like decrease for the national setting.
- Chart on page 4 of the Financial Documents shows contributions from each Conference. At 35%, we will still be in the upper half of proportional Conference giving.

Soooo....

What do you get for \$721,164?

- \$154,000 of direct support for the National setting of the United Church of Christ
- Pastoral Search and Call – in 2010, 22 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 Diversity
- Financial Support for the Atkinson Residence for the Retired in Newbury

Soooo....

What do you get for \$ 721,164?

- 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 \$ 721,164?

- 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 24th 2011 *New Keys for an Old Door*

Soooo....

What do you get for \$ 721,164?

- 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 A Faith Worth Living.
- **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 table in the entryway 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 2012 be 65% for the Vermont Conference and 35% for the United Church of Christ beyond Vermont.

Financial Resolutions – Document F

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 2012 fiscal year.

Financial Resolutions – Document F

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 F

4.) That the 2012 Vermont Per Capita be set at \$11.54.

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

Financial Resolutions – Document F

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 F

6.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to take funds from the unrestricted reserves for any emergency deficit in 2012.

Financial Resolutions – Document F

7.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to adjust the 2012 operating budget as unforeseen circumstances require, within the spending limits established in the budget.

Financial Resolutions – Document F

8.) That the Conference adopt a 2012 Operating Budget of not more than \$721,164 in expense and not less than \$721,164 in income, with the goal of ending 2012 with a balanced budget.

Financial Resolutions – Document F

Discussion and voting on the Financial Resolutions will be held during Plenary Session V, Sunday morning.