

PNW Annual Conference Budget & Shared Services Update

Adapting Our Ministries for a Changing World

Embracing a New Way of Budgeting

Last year, we began a bold move toward budgeting differently—more flexibly, equitably, and in alignment with our **Conference priorities** and the broader **Great Northwest (GNW) Area Priorities**.

We heard the call from the Bishop’s GNW Priorities Task Force to make funding more responsive to emerging ministry opportunities.

- Streamline access to funding and consolidate funding sources to support a movement of ideas to plans, to actions, to evaluations, and on to next iterations; and
- Try things, let go of what’s in the way, celebrate progress and leaders, learn through the process, apply learnings to future efforts, and affirm those who try new and different things.

A new budget presentation format was introduced, and valuable feedback is helping guide its continued evolution

What’s Changing?

Our Legacy Budget Model...

- Began 12+ months before the budget year, making planning difficult.
- Locked funding into line items, restricting access for others.
- Left unspent funds “trapped” with little recirculation.

What We’re Moving Toward:

- A **Ministry Opportunity Fund** within the budget.
 - **Flexible funding** through a **granting model** open to Boards, Agencies, and grassroots groups.
 - Emphasis on **timeliness, equity, and responsiveness**.
 - Support for projects aligned with our **M.I.L.E.** (Ministry that matters, Itineration, Lay ministry enhancement, Elimination of racism) and **Conference priorities** (Equity Anti-Racism, Youth/Young People, Housing/Hunger/Health, Climate Care, Discipleship) .
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New Granting Model

We will offer **three funding cycles per year**, allowing groups to submit visions for ministry work that aligns with Conference priorities and M.I.L.E.

- **Seed Grants** (under \$5,000)
 - Easy application, minimal requirements
 - Great for “testing the waters”, forming partnerships, or seed funding
- **Larger Grants**
 - For developing events, initiatives, or projects
 - Evaluated using a rubric focusing on:
 - Alignment with mission & priorities
 - M.I.L.E. engagement
 - Connectional and contextual impact (internal & external)
- → Reporting back on measurable outcomes
- **Three Funding Cycles per year**
 - September, early December, March/April

Timeline & Budget Approval

Fall 2025

A **special session** will be held to approve the **2026 budget**, giving local churches time to incorporate apportionments into their planning.

Spring 2026

We anticipate a return to the regular Annual Conference session for the **2027 budget**.

Shared Services: Resourcing Across the GNW

For 7+ years, GNW Treasurers and staff have been aligning work across conferences. Now, a **Shared Services Model** is taking shape—not to merge Annual Conferences, but to:

- Deepen expertise
- Serve churches more effectively
- Collaborate meaningfully
- Stay adaptive in a changing world
- Improve efficiencies where they make sense

Shared Services Leadership Team

- **Brant Henshaw** – Executive Director of Finance & Admin / Treasurer
- **Sara Goetze** – Director of Finance / Assistant Treasurer
- **Kristi Durham** – Director of HR & Benefits
- **New Director of Property Assets** – Coming soon
- **Bruce Galvin** – Serving through 2026 with 50+ years of dedicated ministry

Our Commitment to You

We believe these initiatives prepare us to adapt faithfully and effectively as the world and church continue to change.

Shared Services is committed to:

- ✓ Listening to the needs of local churches
- ✓ Supporting clergy benefits
- ✓ Consulting on property and administration
- ✓ Stewarding financial gifts and fulfilling financial obligations
- ✓ Resourcing church committees and leaders

Pilot