

PROPOSED 2027 PNW CONFERENCE BUDGET REDUCTION PROCESS

As a member of the Annual Conference, you will choose among four plans for reducing the proposed 2027 budget. In doing so, you are weighing the alignment of resources with the Pacific Northwest Conference's mission, faithful stewardship of funds, sustainability for the future, equity in funding, and the PNW's collective witness. Thank you for your participation in this process!

HOW WE GOT HERE

During the 2026 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference session, the PNW Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) presented a proposed conference budget for 2027 (PCH Petition #15) to the body. This budget, along with its rationale and explanations are still available to review on the conference website (https://bit.ly/pnw-budget-june). Additional information about budget items can also be found in the 'Together We Serve' connectional giving document (https://bit.ly/tws-2026).

Following the presentation, members engaged in a period of questions, discussion, and clarification regarding the proposal. After this time of discussion, the Annual Conference voted to support a motion reducing the budget presented by $242,827, asking for CFA to determine the necessary reductions and present a revised budget reflecting this decrease for consideration.

In September, CFA began to discuss this work, subsequently inviting the PNW Connectional Table and ministry stakeholders (who manage the program portion of the budget) into a conversation around the requested reduction. This larger group met online on September 21 to receive information and an orientation to the task. Following this meeting, they were invited to share their values relating to the work of the conference and funding using a survey, in addition to naming portions of the budget where they would like to see the reductions. On September 28, the same group met again at the conference office (and online), having a lengthy and rich conversation. They were invited to share their budget reduction recommendations over survey again.

With this valuable input, CFA met to develop the four reduction plans you are being asked to consider at the Special Session on November 10, 2026. Each reduces the budget by the same $243,000 figure (7.1% of the budget lines eligible for reduction), a few dollars ($173) above the requested amount. Members will choose from the options, each reflecting different approaches, using ranked-choice voting (see next page).

It is important to note a few things before introducing these plans. Per the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*, annual conferences must budget to fund the entirety of its allocated General Church Apportionments (lines 6-15). Because of this, these lines were not considered for a reduction. One additional line, Funds to Cover Unpaid Apportionments, was also left alone as it is calculated from the rate at which local churches are expected to pay their apportionments (in the aggregate), and it covers the shortfall when some churches do not pay in full.

On the following pages, you'll find the four reduction plans along with a short rationale explaining the reasoning undergirding each option. The line numbers in the first column match the budget proposed to conference members in June, a copy of which you'll find on the pages following the four reduction plans. You will notice that related lines are often grouped together. In addition to making the task of identifying reductions easier, it will also allow those responsible for lines that are reduced some agency and flexibility in deciding how to absorb the reduction.

ONWARD THROUGH THE SPECIAL SESSION

October 27 — Q&A Session — 6:30 p.m. PT on Zoom
We will review the four budget reduction proposals developed through the stakeholder process and CFA. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and better understand the implications of each proposal.

November 1 — Deadline for Additional Proposals
Annual Conference members may submit additional budget reduction proposals using the same form provided to the Connectional Table and stakeholders as they considered reductions. Each proposal must include signatures from 10 members of the Annual Conference and must meet submission requirements to be published following the Q&A.

Publication of All Eligible Proposals
All proposals, including those developed by stakeholders and CFA and those submitted by individual members, will be shared with the Annual Conference before the special session to allow time for review.

November 10 — Special Session — 6:30 p.m. PT on Zoom
The conference will use a nonbinding ranked-choice poll to gather member preferences and identify the proposal with the broadest support. Members will rank the eligible proposals in order of preference. If no proposal receives a majority of valid continuing ballots in the first round calculation, the proposal with the fewest votes will be eliminated, and ballots will be redistributed according to members' next available preferences. This process will continue until one proposal receives a majority of valid continuing ballots.

The results will be reported to the body. CFA will then present the selected proposal for formal consideration and adoption by the Annual Conference under the applicable parliamentary rules. The ranked-choice poll will inform the conference's decision but will not itself constitute formal adoption of the budget.



PLAN A
2027 PNW CONFERENCE BUDGET REDUCTION

Program-focused cuts (including full Ministry Opportunity Fund elimination)

Plan A gets most of its savings from program areas. It cuts $75,000 from the Annual Conference session, about two-thirds of that $114,000 budget, on the assumption that the session would be held virtually. It eliminates the Ministry Opportunity Fund entirely, though about $60,000–$70,000 in reserves would remain available. Plan A also reduces funding for GNW Equity Vitality/Congregational Development and for scholarships.

Lines	Section	Budget Area	2027 Apportioned ($)	Proposed Budget Line Reduction	% of Line
18	Episcopal Office	GNW Episcopal Office expenses (shared across the Area)	$45,000		
23–27	Personnel	GNW Shared Ministry Positions (Equity, Cong. Dev., CoIM)	$257,500		
29–33	Personnel	District Service Center staff	$201,200		
35–39	Personnel	District Superintendents	$643,000		
41–45	Personnel	Office of Connectional Ministries staff	$690,000		
47–51	Personnel	Ethnic Ministries staff	$148,000		
54	Personnel	Shared Services: Treasurer's Salary	$85,000		
55–57	Personnel	Shared Services: other staffing, benefits, expenses	$386,000		
63	Property	District Parsonages	$5,000		
68–72	Office	Connectional Ministries Office	$80,000		
74–77	Office	District Service Center office	$33,000		
79–83	Office	Treasurer's office	$48,000		
87–91	Program	Annual Conference Sessions	$114,000	**$75,000**	**65.8%**
94	Program	Board of Higher Education & Ministry	$65,000		
95	Program	Board of Ordained Ministry	$40,000		
96	Program	Board of Trustees	$10,000		
97	Program	Camping Support (fire & liability insurance)	$70,000		
98	Program	GNW Equity Vitality/Cong. Development	$110,000	**$53,000**	**48.2%**
100	Program	Global Mission	$11,900		
103–106	Program	Ethnic Ministries program (Hispanic and Ethnic Ministry Development.)	$30,000		
109	Program	Cabinet Special Needs Fund	$5,000		
110–114	Program	Clergy & Church Support Funds (Equitable Comp, Mission Aid, Moving, Recruitment)	$165,000		
115	Program	District Service Center program (AC youth, clergy day apart)	$30,000		
117	Program	Ministry Opportunity Fund	$100,000	**$100,000**	**100.0%**
120–122	Program	Office of Connectional Ministries program	$20,000		
124–128	Program	Other Ministries (Faith Action Network, OCM Scholarships)	$30,000	**$15,000**	**50.0%**
		TOTAL PROPOSED REDUCTION	**$3,422,600**	**$243,000**	**7.1%**

PLAN B
2027 PNW CONFERENCE BUDGET REDUCTION

Personnel-focused cuts

Plan B shifts more of the reduction toward personnel. It keeps the same $75,000 Annual Conference reduction as Plan A, but reduces the Ministry Opportunity Fund to about $44,000 instead of eliminating it. It also reduces the Office of Connectional Ministries (OCM) staffing budget. In addition, it eliminates an unfilled administrative position within the GNW shared ministry staff, which accounts for $50,000 of the reduction.

Lines	Section	Budget Area	2027 Apportioned ($)	Proposed Budget Line Reduction	% of Line
18	Episcopal Office	GNW Episcopal Office expenses (shared across the Area)	$45,000		
23-27	Personnel	GNW Shared Ministry Positions (Equity, Cong. Dev., CoIM)	$257,500	**$50,000**	**19.4%**
29-33	Personnel	District Service Center staff	$201,200		
35-39	Personnel	District Superintendents	$643,000		
41-45	Personnel	Office of Connectional Ministries staff	$690,000	**$62,000**	**9.0%**
47-51	Personnel	Ethnic Ministries staff	$148,000		
54	Personnel	Shared Services: Treasurer's Salary	$85,000		
55-57	Personnel	Shared Services: other staffing, benefits, expenses	$386,000		
63	Property	District Parsonages	$5,000		
68-72	Office	Connectional Ministries Office	$80,000		
74-77	Office	District Service Center office	$33,000		
79-83	Office	Treasurer's office	$48,000		
87-91	Program	Annual Conference Sessions	$114,000	**$75,000**	**65.8%**
94	Program	Board of Higher Education & Ministry	$65,000		
95	Program	Board of Ordained Ministry	$40,000		
96	Program	Board of Trustees	$10,000		
97	Program	Camping Support (fire & liability insurance)	$70,000		
98	Program	GNW Equity Vitality/Cong. Development	$110,000		
100	Program	Global Mission	$11,900		
103-106	Program	Ethnic Ministries program (Hispanic and Ethnic Ministry Development.)	$30,000		
109	Program	Cabinet Special Needs Fund	$5,000		
110-114	Program	Clergy & Church Support Funds (Equitable Comp, Mission Aid, Moving, Recruitment)	$165,000		
115	Program	District Service Center program (AC youth, clergy day apart)	$30,000		
117	Program	Ministry Opportunity Fund	$100,000	**$56,000**	**56.0%**
120-122	Program	Office of Connectional Ministries program	$20,000		
124-128	Program	Other Ministries (Faith Action Network, OCM Scholarships)	$30,000		
		TOTAL PROPOSED REDUCTION	**$3,422,600**	**$243,000**	**7.1%**

PLAN C
2027 PNW CONFERENCE BUDGET REDUCTION

Proportional cuts

Plan C takes a proportional approach. It cuts every program and expense category by the average percentage recommended by the 16 survey respondents. The largest individual reductions under this plan fall on the Ministry Opportunity Fund, Annual Conference, the OCM program, Other Ministries, Equity, and the District Superintendents.

Lines	Section	Budget Area	2027 Apportioned ($)	Proposed Budget Line Reduction	% of Line
18	Episcopal Office	GNW Episcopal Office expenses (shared across the Area)	$45,000		
23-27	Personnel	GNW Shared Ministry Positions (Equity, Cong. Dev., CoIM)	$257,500	**$50,000**	**19.4%**
29-33	Personnel	District Service Center staff	$201,200		
35-39	Personnel	District Superintendents	$643,000	**$32,000**	**5.0%**
41-45	Personnel	Office of Connectional Ministries staff	$690,000	**$20,000**	**2.9%**
47-51	Personnel	Ethnic Ministries staff	$148,000		
54	Personnel	Shared Services: Treasurer's Salary	$85,000		
55-57	Personnel	Shared Services: other staffing, benefits, expenses	$386,000		
63	Property	District Parsonages	$5,000		
68-72	Office	Connectional Ministries Office	$80,000		
74-77	Office	District Service Center office	$33,000		
79-83	Office	Treasurer's office	$48,000		
87-91	Program	Annual Conference Sessions	$114,000	**$26,000**	**22.8%**
94	Program	Board of Higher Education & Ministry	$65,000	**$2,300**	**3.5%**
95	Program	Board of Ordained Ministry	$40,000	**$5,200**	**13.0%**
96	Program	Board of Trustees	$10,000	**$2,000**	**20.0%**
97	Program	Camping Support (fire & liability insurance)	$70,000	**$1,400**	**2.0%**
98	Program	GNW Equity Vitality/Cong. Development	$110,000	**$13,200**	**12.0%**
100	Program	Global Mission	$11,900	**$450**	**3.8%**
103-106	Program	Ethnic Ministries program (Hispanic and Ethnic Ministry Development.)	$30,000	**$1,500**	**5.0%**
109	Program	Cabinet Special Needs Fund	$5,000	**$650**	**13.0%**
110-114	Program	Clergy & Church Support Funds (Equitable Comp, Mission Aid, Moving, Recruitment)	$165,000	**$9,900**	**6.0%**
115	Program	District Service Center program (AC youth, clergy day apart)	$30,000	**$2,400**	**8.0%**
117	Program	Ministry Opportunity Fund	$100,000	**$63,000**	**63.0%**
120-122	Program	Office of Connectional Ministries program	$20,000	**$2,000**	**10.0%**
124-128	Program	Other Ministries (Faith Action Network, OCM Scholarships)	$30,000	**$11,000**	**36.7%**
		TOTAL PROPOSED REDUCTION	**$3,422,600**	**$243,000**	**7.1%**

PLAN D
2027 PNW CONFERENCE BUDGET REDUCTION

No Annual Conference Session cut (preserves in-person option)

Plan D leaves the Annual Conference Sessions budget untouched to give those who want to keep an in-person conference a viable option to vote for. Like Plan A, it eliminates the Ministry Opportunity Fund entirely, which is its largest single reduction, though about $60,000–$70,000 in reserves would remain available. To reach the rest of the target, it spreads cuts across the OCM, the Episcopal Office, office expenses, and the unfilled GNW position.

Lines	Section	Budget Area	2027 Apportioned ($)	Proposed Budget Line Reduction	% of Line
18	Episcopal Office	GNW Episcopal Office expenses (shared across the Area)	$45,000	**$5,000**	**11.1%**
23-27	Personnel	GNW Shared Ministry Positions (Equity, Cong. Dev., CoIM)	$257,500	**$50,000**	**19.4%**
29-33	Personnel	District Service Center staff	$201,200		
35-39	Personnel	District Superintendents	$643,000		
41-45	Personnel	Office of Connectional Ministries staff	$690,000	**$17,000**	**2.5%**
47-51	Personnel	Ethnic Ministries staff	$148,000		
54	Personnel	Shared Services: Treasurer's Salary	$85,000		
55-57	Personnel	Shared Services: other staffing, benefits, expenses	$386,000		
63	Property	District Parsonages	$5,000	**$1,000**	**20.0%**
68-72	Office	Connectional Ministries Office	$80,000	**$6,000**	**7.5%**
74-77	Office	District Service Center office	$33,000	**$2,000**	**6.1%**
79-83	Office	Treasurer's office	$48,000	**$2,000**	**4.2%**
87-91	Program	Annual Conference Sessions	$114,000		
94	Program	Board of Higher Education & Ministry	$65,000	**$3,000**	**4.6%**
95	Program	Board of Ordained Ministry	$40,000	**$6,000**	**15.0%**
96	Program	Board of Trustees	$10,000	**$3,000**	**30.0%**
97	Program	Camping Support (fire & liability insurance)	$70,000	**$2,000**	**2.9%**
98	Program	GNW Equity Vitality/Cong. Development	$110,000	**$14,000**	**12.7%**
100	Program	Global Mission	$11,900	**$1,000**	**8.4%**
103-106	Program	Ethnic Ministries program (Hispanic and Ethnic Ministry Development.)	$30,000	**$2,000**	**6.7%**
109	Program	Cabinet Special Needs Fund	$5,000	**$1,000**	**20.0%**
110-114	Program	Clergy & Church Support Funds (Equitable Comp, Mission Aid, Moving, Recruitment)	$165,000	**$10,000**	**6.1%**
115	Program	District Service Center program (AC youth, clergy day apart)	$30,000	**$3,000**	**10.0%**
117	Program	Ministry Opportunity Fund	$100,000	**$100,000**	**100.0%**
120-122	Program	Office of Connectional Ministries program	$20,000	**$3,000**	**15.0%**
124-128	Program	Other Ministries (Faith Action Network, OCM Scholarships)	$30,000	**$12,000**	**40.0%**
		TOTAL PROPOSED REDUCTION	**$3,422,600**	**$243,000**	**7.1%**