

## Finance and Ministry Financial Plan 2017-19

-We give thanks to God for the retirement of the synod's debt through the "One in Christ" special offering.

-We give thanks to God that such a small group of Christians of under 300,000 adults can still support a proposed synodical budget that exceeds \$81, 000,000. This shows our congregations' and members' dedication to supporting the Synod's work.

-We express prayerful concern for the

1) apparent flat rate of giving of our members in spite of our prosperity and the consistent rise in inflation working against the value of the offerings that have been given;

2) the declining membership of our synod (down 6% from our membership in 2008), which indeed plays into our flat rate of giving;

3) need to continue dipping into the Financial Stabilization Fund reserves to meet expenses, which is part of the proposed budget (p. 130-131, points 3a and 3b).

From Pastor David Voss, Chairman of the Fin. & Min. Fin. Plan, and the MI District Convention: The balance for the Financial Stabilization Fund (FSF) is forecast to be \$12.8 million at the end of FY 2017 (table on page 128). The FSF is forecast to be at \$9.5 million at the end of FY 2019, assuming an estimated 0.5% increase in Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). Should CMO exceed that percentage, less will need to be taken from the FSF in the biennium.

-We encourage pastors and church leaders to continue to educate and strengthen their congregations' members with the Word of God, his abundant grace to us through Christ, as well as ways to grow in expressions of thanksgiving with a holistic stewardship of his gifts.

Pastor James Getka

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