

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year ended December 31, 2013

I am pleased to report that Fiscal year 2013 ended on budget mainly because of strong expense control and better than expected pledge income. Despite this result, and given the state of the national economy, it remains prudent to continue the conservative budgeting approach that has been diocesan policy over the past several years.

Through continued careful management of expenses and with the full expectation that parish pledges come in for the balance of the year as expected, we expect the 2014 Budget of Convention to provide a surplus. This is important since reserve funds are at the minimum level recommended by our auditors and a surplus will enable the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to increase its reserves. These results have been achieved with no reduction or compromising of internal fiscal controls or results despite significant turnover of the financial staff. Special thanks go to our reduced financial staff, to Robert Half International for providing talented and competent temporary accountants, and to Louis Fuertes who joined the staff as the Interim for Mission Support late in the year and has done yeoman work in assuring the integrity of the financial statements and in developing the Convention Budget for 2015.

The preparation process for the fiscal year 2015 Convention Budget was under the capable leadership of Barbara Curry, Chair of the Program and Budget Committee with support from Louis Fuertes and the financial staff. Using the 2013 Budget of Convention as a base, the Committee held a series of meetings and was able to construct a proposed balanced Budget of Convention for 2015. The proposed 2015 budget is based on estimates of support from parishes (assuming that Resolution 3: Common Mission Support which requires parishes to contribute a minimum of 10% of their operating expenses annually to the Budget of Convention passes), investments and other income; changes in staffing including the retirement of Bishop Curry; a cost of living increase for the staff; and continued support for programs of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. The proposed budget also includes a contingency line of approximately seven percent.

Despite the continued stress from financial staff changes, the financial control over discretionary and fixed costs was exemplary. In addition, the bishops and staff continue to evolve and refine the structure and purposes of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut staff to assist the work of the parishes in carrying out God's Mission.

I personally continue to feel blessed to be a part of this process, all of which takes place in a faithful and collegial atmosphere and with a growing understanding of God's Mission and our common life together as the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Alan Brooks, Treasurer