



*Message from the Executive Director
September 2024*

Greetings!

August is over, but there are still a few weeks left of summer. I am keeping my summer attitude while preparing for the busy schedule that comes in the fall.

This is the time of year when finance leaders are preparing their annual budget. I want to remind you that the budget process should be shared with program leaders, administrative staff, trustees, pastors, and anyone who receives church funds. On the Updates & Resources page of our website, you will find resources to help you with budget creation under Training Resources: Church Budgeting (Budget Template - Excel). You will also find links to recordings of Zoom trainings on Church Budgeting and Church Budgeting for Beginners.

While every church needs a line-item budget, a Narrative Budget will help you tell your story. Church finance expert and friend, Bonnie Ives Marden, says "presenting your budget in a narrative form provides a powerful tool for stewardship, evangelism, and marketing." You will find her article "A Simple Step-by-Step Process for Creating a Narrative Budget" on the Lewis Center for Church Leadership website.

The UMC Discipleship Ministries website provides an example of a Narrative Budget. A Narrative Budget can help your congregation understand your ministries and is a great way of telling the story of how God is using your church to share God's love in your community.

If you already have a Narrative Budget, I would love to see it!

Warm regards,
Ellen