

October 14, 2025



Dear Ministry Partners,

My favorite season is upon us – and no, I’m not talking about Fall. I’m talking about budget season! I’ve shared before that I genuinely love coordinating, forecasting, planning, sharing and spreadsheet building that goes into making a budget. Each line item represents possibility and promises – I confess, it gets me every time!

Despite how much I enjoy it, the 2026 budget process has not been without bumps in the road. We only need to look around in our pews or our neighborhoods to see that our local economy has taken a hit over the last 9-10 months; the extent to which that is impacting giving continues to play out. We also know that our communities are hurting and facing new challenges, meaning the way we minister and respond might be shifting.

The Budget and Finance Committee has been working hard to balance economic uncertainty with committee requests and anticipates making a recommendation to Leadership Council regarding the 2026 Per Capita rate on November 5. If the way be clear and Leadership Council concurs with that recommendation, we will distribute the recommended Per Capita Rate (and all related budget materials) on November 6. (As a reminder, the 2026 per capita rate is not officially set until the body votes at the Presbytery meeting scheduled for November 18.)

As congregations enter their stewardship seasons and begin preparing their respective budgets, we do know that there will be an overall increase to per capita because both General Assembly and Synod of Mid Atlantic have increased their rates for 2026.

If you have any questions about per capita, the budget process, or anything else finance related, the business office is here to help.

Blessings as we continue this important work together!

Heather Deacon
Senior Director of Finance & Operations