

At the heart of the Southwest Conference (SWC) lies a deep commitment to radical hospitality and embracing diversity, and welcoming every voice on the journey. We are striving to reflect the love and light of Christ, where all can find sanctuary and a sense of belonging in our open, affirming, and welcoming congregations. Where no matter who you are, or where you are on the journey of life, you are a valued member of God's family.

Together, with our committed conference staff, executive board, committees, ministries, and congregations, we embark on a sacred journey of equipping and empowering one another for missions and ministries. Strengthening our connections, we seek not only to transform lives within our faith community but also to extend our impact beyond church walls, reaching into neighborhoods and communities, and even beyond borders.

Here is a summary of our proposed budget for the fiscal year 2025:

Total Operating Budget: \$686,904 Total Projected Revenue: \$460,443

We are projecting a decrease in OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) based on pledges from local churches. Despite this, we are grateful for your continued support, which allows us to expand our programs, including a new congregational resilience and revitalization grant initiative. While OCWM giving could potentially increase, it is not likely to cover the deficit. To balance the budget, we will have to draw from our endowment's interest. Nevertheless, we have remained faithful in our contributions to OCWM, sending 20% of our receipts to the UCC's National Setting.

In this fiscal year, we are designating \$92.5K from reserved account funds to support greater mission and ministry. The allocations are as follows:

New Hope UCC – Phoenix, a new church start, will receive \$10K through matching funds. Additionally, \$50K is allocated for a new congregational resiliency and revitalization program, aimed at fostering growth through active missions and ministry. Good news, we are stabilizing. We did not have any sales of real property or conversion to cash from new legacy churches.

Aligned with our commitment to supporting border work and asylum seekers, \$30K is allocated for continued mission work in support of La Casa De La Misericordia, a SWC-supported ministry through Cruzando Fronteras. Furthermore, our support of racial justice work in support of the Franklinton Center at Bricks is \$2.5K.

Your ongoing generosity and support enable us to live out our mission, extending love and compassion to all, both near and far. Thank you for your partnership in this sacred work.

Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins
Transitional Conference Minister