

**Exhibit D.6**  
**September 2021**

Budget and Finance Committee Report to the Southeastern Synod Council  
August 31, 2021

**Action item: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Synod Council create a Rostered Ministers' Support Fund with the money we received in our 2020 PPP loan. This fund will be administered by the executive committee and used to help congregations and other ministries in the Synod that are struggling to meet the cost of securing rostered leadership.**

1. The Budget and Finance Committee met by ZOOM on August 26 to assess the Synod's current financial situation. The meeting included committee members Allison Bussone, Noah Eggleston, Pr. John Rossing, and Carla Stickles, along with treasurer Steve Gehret, Pr. Jill Henning, and Bishop Strickland

2. The Synod seems to be in good financial shape at the half-way point in fiscal year 2021-22. Mission Support Income from undesignated gifts and Abundance Appeal gifts is a little less than half of what was budgeted for the year (47.2%), but so are our expenses (45.76%). Our budget for the year projected a \$98,000 surplus once we reduced our churchwide contribution to 43% of our undesignated income, and at mid-year it looks like we could realize a comfortable surplus.

We also observed that our endowment and other major funds have performed well so far in 2021, earning about \$300,000 in investment gains.

3. We discussed our two ongoing fund appeals, the Abundance Appeal and the Living Lutheran Legacy campaign. Bishop Strickland told us that Pr. Ana Lugo recommends we conclude those appeals soon rather than leaving multiple major campaigns open. We agree with her recommendation.

4. We discussed how to use the money we received in our PPP loan, which is currently listed as both an asset and a liability in our operating fund. Since we have received confirmation that our loan was forgiven, it no longer needs to be listed as a liability, but we think it should be set aside for special use in ministry rather than allowed to remain in general operating funds. Because the original purpose of the PPP was to support workers' salaries, it seems appropriate to put the PPP money in a Rostered Ministers' Support Fund, which could be used to help congregations and other ministries (campus ministries, for example) that are struggling to meet the costs of having rostered leaders. This fund would be administered by the executive committee. **See action item above.**

5. The committee is still short one member, and is looking for recommendations of a lay person who could serve on the committee, preferably from Alabama or Mississippi. There will also be a vacancy for a rostered minister after the current appointment year.

6. Our next meeting will be our annual budget preparation meeting by ZOOM on Saturday, December 11, at 9 a.m.

Pr. John Rossing, chair

**Exhibit D.6**  
**September 2021**

Committee replacement recommendations  
1 rostered, one lay

Later business: recommend to synod Council that we move from owned cars to reimbursed mileage.