The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee
Resources for Creating a Narrative Budget

The Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee is to encourage and to equip one another as the baptized people of God to witness to the reconciling and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

As part of our Diocesan Budgeting process, and in order that we can better understand the ministry being undertaken by the ministries and congregations requesting support, you’re encouraged to submit a narrative budget along with your 2021 budget request and a proposed (traditionally formatted) 2021 budget.

If you have not crafted a narrative budget before, the following resources may be beneficial.

From the Episcopal Church Foundation’s Vital Practices web site:

- Another example: [https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/example-narrative-budget](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/example-narrative-budget)

A helpful resource from the Disciples of Christ Center for Faith and Giving:

- [https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/2016/01/building-a-narrative-budget/](https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/2016/01/building-a-narrative-budget/)

Another example of a graphical narrative budget, from the United Methodist Church:

- [https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/building-a-narrative-budget](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/building-a-narrative-budget)

In your efforts, focus on the narrative aspect of the narrative budget—we should already have your traditional 2021 budget or projected budget. There will be some things you don’t need to expend energy writing about or sharing stories about (no matter how much you love your electrical utility). Instead, we’re interested in accounts and stories of ministry: individual and corporate encounters with Jesus (has someone come to faith? Has a family been impacted? Has someone returned to the church after a long absence, have people had their hearts and imaginations taken captive by worship?), community engagement (service projects, community events participated in etc), goals accomplished and so on.

Please mail or email your 2021 Budget Request forms, proposed 2021 budget, and narrative budget by **October 31st, 2020**. If your 2021 proposed budget is not yet completed, please send a preliminary estimate.

Please make sure you are current in the submissions of your mission’s 2020 monthly financial statements.

Please email your requests to sabington@edtn.org or mail them to:

Susan Abington, Finance Administrator
The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee
3700 Woodmont Boulevard
Nashville, Tennessee 37215