

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 2024 budget request and a proposed (traditionally formatted) 2024 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:

- Templates for creating a narrative budget:
<https://www.ecfvp.org/tools/169/narrative-budget-template>

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

- <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 2024 budget or projected budget. 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 2024 Budget Request forms, 2022 yearend financial statements, proposed 2024 budget, and narrative budget **by October 31, 2023**. If your 2024 proposed budget is not yet completed, please send a preliminary estimate.

Please make sure you are current in the submissions of your mission's 2023 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