

Narrative for 2026 Final Read Proposed Budget

The Budget and Finance Committee, in concurrence with the PLM Leadership Team, presented the First Read of the 2026 Budget at the September 13, 2025, Stated Meeting.

The designated email address: bnfmoderator@lakemichiganpresbytery.org was publicized as part of the Narrative for the First Read of the 2026 Budget. This address was publicized in the e-digest and in communications sent to Clerks of Session and members of the presbytery. Everyone was requested to use this email and to put their comments or questions in written form and submit them by October 06, 2025. No questions or comments were received by that date.

The interlude between the presentation of the First Read of the 2026 Budget and the creation of the Final Draft provided an opportunity to consider some additional information:

Presbytery approval, at September 13, 2025 Stated Meeting of a 0.0 % per capita increase for 2026 leaving the 2025 Presbytery of Lake Michigan per capita of \$ 27.76 the same for 2026. (General Assembly per capita and Synod of the Covenant per capita are set by actions of those bodies).

September 13, 2025, adoption of Terms of Call as recommended. The minimum for those receiving cash salary plus housing allowance was established at \$58,352 for 2026 as compared to \$ 56,740 for 2025. This represents a 2.84% increase.

The announcement by the Social Security Administration that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase for 2026 was delayed by the government shutdown. Usually, this information is a significant factor in making recommendations to the PLM. It could not be considered at the October 14, 2025 Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

The Budget and Finance Committee affirmed the use of 2.84 % as the cost-of-living increase for individual salary purposes. (c.f. pages 12 and 13 of First Read Narrative)

The B&F committee affirmed the desirability of presenting the budget as detailed in the First Read. As a reminder, we observe that the 2026 budget includes \$230,086 from Reserves. Since 2019 it has not been necessary to use money from the reserves. (c.f. page 10 of First Read Narrative)

The B&F Committee prepared a Final Draft of the 2026 Budget, and this Narrative for consideration and endorsement by the Leadership Team which met on November 6, 2025.

Recommended to Stated Meeting- December 02, 2025

The Budget and Finance Committee recommends no changes to the First Read of the 2026 Budget.

The 2026 budget reflects the reality that ours is a unified budget with multiple sources of income for our ministry together and it is a budget that can facilitate our ministry together.

Thank you for your support of our joint ministries, it affirms that we are a connectional denomination. Participation in Shared Mission giving, and robust commitment to per capita are vital to the ministries of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan bringing hope and light to our communities.