

Appendix C: Process & Timeline of Meetings

Process

The financial sustainability team gathered audited financial statements from the six agencies and ASG, along with service and lease agreements and projections for per capita for ASG and PMA in 2019. This team met with staff from all stated agencies, with follow-up meetings with staff of the Foundation, and with the boards of PMA, OGA, and ASG (see below). Additionally, the team reviewed the financial statements from PMA, OGA, and ASG in late 2021.

The per capita team invited mid council leaders of all 170 presbyteries and 16 synods to listening sessions. Over a period of six months, the team conducted listening sessions. Mid council leaders represented all 16 synods and 108 presbyteries (that could be identified). (For questions and responses, see Appendix D: Per Capita Questions and Responses). Those listening sessions were inclusive of local congregational pastors who were present at the gatherings that hosted the listening sessions. Local congregations were not surveyed systematically, since such a listening session effort would not be from a significant sample size nor would it reflect sufficient regional diversity due to the time restrictions of the mandate. We were intent on working from a genuine set of data that came directly from those most affected, as per capita giving to presbyteries is voluntary at the congregational level, but mandated to be paid to higher councils by presbyteries [*Book of Order*, 3.0106 states “Each council above the session shall prepare and adopt a budget for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and *may* [emphasis the committee’s] fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular congregations within its bounds. Presbyteries are responsible for raising their own funds and for raising and timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and the General Assembly”]. Additionally, mid council leaders represented regional differences among congregations and mid councils. When the work was continued for another two years, the per capita team reached out to select mid council leaders for further conversation, to find out what might have changed in the pandemic.

The team also listened to the heads of the agencies and ASG, along with senior staff and staff of mid council ministries, although with less rigor due to the time restrictions for the work and the focus on the donor bodies (see Appendix E: Summary of Agency Responses). The financial sustainability team had conversations with the board of A Corp/ASG, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, and staff of the Presbyterian Foundation. When the work was continued for an additional two years, the financial sustainability team followed closely the work of the Coordinating Table and the joint budgeting of OGA and PMA. Once we had the data and found a set of common values for any funding model, we set about looking at experiments that might benefit the whole church, not just the national council.

June 2018

223rd General Assembly votes to form special committees on financial sustainability and per capita

March 2019

First Zoom call of the committee

May 2019

First face-to-face meeting of the committee, Fort Worth

June 2019

Listening Session – Synod of the Northeast

Listening Session – Synod of Lincoln Trails

Financial Sustainability representatives meet with Committee on the Office of the General Assembly

July 2019

Listening Session – Synod of Rocky Mountains

Listening Session – Synod of the Northeast

Financial Sustainability representatives meet with the Board of A Corporation

Financial Sustainability representatives meet with staff of the Presbyterian Foundation

August 2019

Listening Session – Synod of the Covenant

Listening Session – Synod of the Southern California and Hawaii

Listening Session – Synod of the Sun

Listening Session – Synod of the Pacific

Listening Session – Synod of the Southwest

Listening Session – Synod of Mid America

Face-to-face meeting of Financial Sustainability team

Face-to-face meeting of Per Capita team

Listening Session – Synod of the Trinity

Listening Session – Synod of Lakes and Prairies

September 2019

Financial Sustainability representatives meet with Presbyterian Mission Agency Board

October 2019

Listening Session – Synod of Alaska Northwest

Listening Session – Synod of the Sun – Stated Clerks

Listening Session – Mid Council Leaders Gathering

November 2019

Face-to-face meeting of the committee, Louisville

Listening Session – Synod of Living Waters

Listening Session – Synod of Boriquen

December 2019

Face-to-face meeting with heads of agencies/entity for Per Capita Collaborative (Six Agency) Self-Study

December 31, 2019

Financial Sustainability report due to MFIC, Vision 2020, agencies/entity

January 2020

Meeting with Mid Council and other key staff at PMA/OGA

Face-to-face meeting of the committee, Louisville

February 2020

Committee report submitted for 224th General Assembly

Committee presentation to joint meeting of COGA/PMAB

June 2020

Report goes to the 224th General Assembly and its review is moved forward to the 225th General Assembly

July 2020

Full Committee meeting

January 2021

Per Capita Team meeting

July 8, 2021

Follow up w/ Mid Council Leaders in the Synod of the Covenant

July 14, 2021

Follow up w/ Mid Council Leaders in the Synod of the South Atlantic

August 10, 2021

Follow up w/ Mid Council Leaders in the Synod of Mid America

November 19, 2021

Full committee meets x2

December 6, 2021

Per Capita Team meets

December 2021

PC sub team for revisions of appendix

New writing subcommittee is convened

January 2022

Revised recommendations presented to the committee

February 2022

Committee report submitted for 225th General Assembly

June 2022

Report goes to the 225th General Assembly