

Transcript: TWK 2024 Budget Process Introduction Video

TEXT:

Greetings to you, the leaders of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church! As we near the end of 2022 and enter this season of Advent, we celebrate our first year of ministry as the Tennessee-Western Kentucky conference, and look forward to our coming years of ministry, as we work together to accomplish our mission *to discover, equip, connect, and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.*

I am Leslie Hotzfeld, the Executive Director for Brentwood United Methodist Church in the Harpeth River District, and currently serve as the team leader for the Administration Strategy Team of the TWK.

One of our celebrations as a conference is the adoption of a new ministry structure with the establishment of the Connectional Table and the six strategy teams. The Connectional Table is a strategic leadership team, and stewards the mission, vision, and values of the TWK. The six strategy teams— Administration, Equip, Discover/Send, Connect, Communications and Cabinet provide the basis for our structure. Ministry partners, mission initiatives, and the strategies of the conference are assigned to one of these six teams based on the context and focus of their ministry. You can read more about our values, mission, vision and structure at www.TWKUMC.org/about-us.

One of the responsibilities of the Admin Strategy Team is to guide our conference budgeting process, working in collaboration with the Committee on Finance & Administration and the Connectional Table. We are currently focused on planning for the 2024 budget. That is why I am talking with you today.

If you will remember, our conference decisions on budget are effective the following calendar year. So our 2023 budget was set this past June at Annual Conference.

With our 2024 budgeting process, we aim to accomplish **four objectives founded on the Values of the TWK:**

- To strengthen engagement, communication, and collaboration across all strategy areas and between all teams and committees in the TWK, eliminating isolated and siloed ministry,
- To directly align the dollars spent in the TWK with the values, mission, and vision of the conference,
- To improve accountability for ministry spending, and
- To foster transparency in our work.

Simply put, our budget process has 3 steps:

- First, you - the leader of a ministry, committee, board or team, will share with us your plans for ministry and your anticipated budget needs for 2024.
- Next, the Connectional Table, in collaboration with the five Strategy Teams and CFA, will project a budget for 2024.
- And finally, TWK Annual Conference members will approve or modify the projected budget.

To ensure we consider all eligible ministries, and to assist us with aligning our budget with the vision, mission and values, it is important that you and your team complete the **Ministry Update and 2024**

Budget Request Form and submit it, along with your completed Budget Projection Spreadsheet and any supporting documentation, to connectional.table@TWKUMC.org by March 1, 2023.

In March through May of 2023, the Strategy Teams, leaders of all committees and ministry teams, and CFA will confer to determine our total 2024 budget needs. Then in June 2023 CFA will present the 2024 Budget to the TWK Annual Conference for final approval.

In a few weeks, you will be hearing from your Strategy Team leader, to see how they may assist you in this process. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the process, or about the work of the Connectional Table or Strategy Teams, I hope you'll email us at connectional.table@TWKUMC.org. I would love to talk with you!

As a reminder, the first step in the process is for you to submit your budget request no later than March 1, 2023. You can find the forms and other helpful information, along with this transcript, on the TWK website at www.TWKUMC.org/budget-request.

We are so grateful for you and your leadership among us! May God continue to bless you and keep you as we work together to accomplish the vision God has given to the TWK Conference, *uniting to embody the love of Christ in Spirit-led actions one community at a time*. May it be so.