

How Parish Assessments Are Used

Bishop and staff salaries and benefits: Like most organizations, a large part of the assessment covers expenses for diocesan staff, including Bishop Marty Stebbins. Our Bishop provides spiritual leadership, guidance and vision within the diocese. And she is one of many who represent The Diocese to the broader Church, as well as to other entities within Montana. But she cannot do this ministry alone. We do have volunteers and elected volunteers in the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, the Commission on Ministry who do a lot of ministry. But the bishop and these committees need people who can take care of scheduling, communication, canonical reporting and the financial matters (Barb Hagan and Jill Sallin). Our staff members make sure this flows smoothly. Our part-time Canon to the Ordinary assists our Bishop in ministry (Canon Chris Roberts). And our two camp Marshall staff people make sure that Camp runs smoothly and is a welcoming place to be (David Campbell and Mark Clemow).

The Episcopal Church and Province VI: As an irrevocable member of The Episcopal Church (also called the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society) and part of Province VI (the dioceses from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado), we have a duty to financially support these ministries as well. This is part of our vertical structure. The portion of the diocesan budget that gets forwarded helps pay for not only the Presiding Bishop but also missionaries, Native American ministries, and resources for congregational development and for General Convention. Because we pay our full assessment to the national church offices, the diocese and the parishes eligible are to apply for a variety of grants administered by TEC.

Building Maintenance: While the Diocesan Offices are on the campus of the cathedral, St. Peter's, we own the building that the office resides. We also are part owners of the campus ministry building in Bozeman, Christus Collegium. We practice good stewardship in properly maintaining these properties so they are welcoming places to visit.

Camp Marshall: While camp fees cover a portion of the costs of maintaining the camp's physical infrastructure, they do not cover all of the expenses. This is a ministry commitment by the diocesan operating budget to both Montana Episcopalians and others who find Christ's peace and solace on our Camp's grounds.

Office Expenses: Much of our office expenses are based on creating open and transparent communication: phones, computers, copiers, stamps etc. And we also pay to have the diocesan financial accounts audited annually.

Campus Ministry: In addition to the Christus Collegium in Bozeman, we also fund some campus ministry in Missoula. Wouldn't it be great to be able to expand our presence to other campuses?!