

# Creating a Narrative Budget For your Parish

---

Departments of Communications  
and Stewardship

Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

# 3eMcKinney

---

- I'll support that
  - [www.3emckinney.com](http://www.3emckinney.com)
-

# What is a narrative budget?

---

- Your parish's ministry
  - Words, not figures
-

# Tells the story

---

- Lives touched
  - Goals met
  - Not dollars spent
-

# Why do a narrative budget?

---

Historically, gave because were supposed to.

But today

- How is \$ spent
  - Be part of something  
**important** and **effective**
-

# Basic premise

---

We give to God

- Because everything we are
  - And everything we have
  - Is a gift from God
-

# Line-item budget

---

- Accounting tool
  - Hard to understand
  - Doesn't motivate
-

# Narrative budget

---

- Educational and visional
  - Talks about lives changed
  - Inspires giving
-

# Compiling narrative budget

---

- One way - last year's line item budget
-

# Look at categories

---

- Work Outside the Parish
  - Church Programs
  - Supplies
  - Maintenance
  - Personnel
  - Other Personnel Expenses
-

# For each category

---

- Write a paragraph
  - Include money spent
  - Or not
-

# Choose few ministries

---

- short (150 words) vignette
  - few words
  - bullet points
  - very specific
  - story of lives changed
  - (recruit some writers)
-

# Add next year plans

---

- Accomplishments
  - Goals
  - Targets
  - In terms of changing lives
-

# About personnel costs

---

- Church is about relationships
  - Between people, not programs
  - Personnel costs are high
-

# Face into it

---

- Compare to like Episcopal churches
  - Discuss all personnel
-

# Alternative way – no budget

---

- Define areas of ministry
    - Outreach in our community
    - Support and strengthening for our spiritual journeys
    - Care and comfort
    - Education
-

# Allocate all costs among ministries

---

- Personnel costs
  - Operating costs
-

# Pie charts

---

- Good graphics
  - Good explanation
-

# Photos and graphics

---

- How will you print?
  - Lousy photos vs no photos
  - Photos vs graphics
-

# Presentation

---

- Booklet of some sort
  - Who in congregation can do?
-

Additional pages from the Narrative Budget Presentation can be found:

<http://www.mumf.org/files/docs/Building-a-Narrative-Budget.pdf>

Courtesy of Missouri United Methodist Foundation

[www.mumf.org](http://www.mumf.org)

Other useful links:

Giving a dollar amount to volunteer hours

[http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)

<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/>