



**PRESS STATEMENT
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ACROSS THE AISLE**

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We will definitely be in a building mode when it comes to putting in place all of the systems needed to support the ministry and mission of those who will continue in The Episcopal Church, should realignment occur. That can be daunting, but it is also invigorating and a chance to rethink spending priorities. There is energy that comes from building and from being able to focus on the tasks that Christ set before us. We have made a first cut at a budget and in so doing have made support for parishes, parish initiatives, and mission development a high priority. In fact we raised the sums allocated to categories such as Congregational Development, Mission Centers and retained others at their current allocations although we will inevitably be serving fewer parishes and members. Among those retained at current levels are hospital ministries, the commissions on aging and on racism, deacon formation, and the celebration of Absalom Jones Days. This will be a stretch. We will need to be creative and think outside the box. We will need to make use of volunteers as we turn our resources and our hearts to the task of creating a diocesan community that is a vibrant corner of God's kingdom.

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