

Background and Rationale for the 2012 Budget and Proposed Constitutional Changes
WRA Fall Meeting
November 2011

1. Budget—the budget committee and the Association leadership met at length to discuss the proposed budget for 2012. After much deliberation, the committee is recommending a budget that includes several significant changes from prior years, which it would like you to carefully consider as you prepare for the meeting:
 - a. A change in the retention rate **from 44% to 48%**. This was not done lightly and the needs of our Association, Conference and national staff were considered before the suggested increase was adopted by committee. While not a justification, it should be noted that WRA retains the **lowest** amount by far of any of the five Ohio associations.
 - b. A change in Mission Priorities. The proposed budget is significantly lower than in prior years reflecting several potential shifts in thinking. First, that the Association be more intentional in partnering with local churches who might have an affinity for the mission priorities that the Association may set—and that the local churches would partner with the Association in supporting these priorities. Second, that as we reconceive the work of the Association such partnerships will be more in keeping with the new model. Third, (and only third), that the income of the Association is no longer able to support a large, separate, mission budget.
2. Constitutional changes—the parts of the Constitution that deal with the composition of the Association Council, and by extension the structure of the Association itself, are no longer effective. Over the course of the past five years most of the “Departments” have become inactive and in their place interest-driven affinity Working Groups (Let’s Talk Faith, Stewardship, Lay School, and others) have taken their place.

The Council is recommending that the Association suspend Article IV, A (Composition of the Association Council), Article V (Departments—except for Church and Ministry) and Article VI (Elected Committees) for a two-year period. The Council further recommends that the composition of Council be as follows: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Secretary, the Chair of the Department of Church and Ministry, a representative from each of the seven program districts and four at-large members—a total of 16 members plus staff.

The Council will develop a simple and clear method for regular reports from all the Working Groups so that their contributions to the life and health of the Association, the local churches and their members may be duly noted.

In the course of the two-year suspension of these several Articles, or parts of Articles, the Association will pursue the re-writing of the Constitution for the consideration of the full body in the fall of 2014.