The activities by the Finance and Administration Committee this past year include the following:

Completed final revisions to the 2016 conference budget to ensure that all priority programs received adequate funding. We funded new and existing covenanted ministries while at the same time working to balance the total revenues and expenditures of the entire conference activities, including Camp MoVal and Camp Shannondale.

Established a policy for Osage Nation Headrights revenue from mineral rights. The revenue received after December 31, 2013 will be set aside for return to Osage Nation. Revenues received before this will be retained by the conference. Osage Nation is a Native American tribe in Oklahoma.

Changed to Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund at United Church Funds from Conservative Balanced Fund for all investments. Received approval to change 16-quarter earnings withdrawal for invested assets from 3.5% to 4.0% effective March 31.

Prepared a Capital Expense Budget Protocol to be used as a guide for planning and accounting for conference expenditures over $5,000 for equipment, facilities, furnishings or computer software.

Developed guidelines and criteria for a scholarship for theological studies using earnings from the investment of the proceeds from the sale of The Church of the Open Door property. This scholarship program was approved by the Conference Council and is posted on the conference website.

Recruited individuals to serve on the Communications Covenanted Ministry. Hired communications consultant who conducted a survey which gathered feedback on communications activities of the conference.

Loans for vehicles at Camp Shannondale
  2014 Ford Econoline Wagon
  Chevrolet Silverado 4-wheel drive pickup

Conducted a search for a CPA firm to provide accounting support, review of financial internal controls and tax return (Form 990T) preparation. In April 2016, obtained approval from the Conference Council to engage the firm of Rubin Brown CPAs.

Opened checking account for Shannondale Carbon LLC. In 2016 approved the funding of $50,000 for urgent repairs and renovation at Shannondale Community Center.

Purchased tele-video conferencing equipment for a communication center. This equipment was installed at Columbia United Church of Christ in Columbia, Missouri.

Finance and Administration Committee members:
Ken Ulmer, Conference Treasurer & Committee Co-chair          West Hurt
Carl Philips, Committee Co-chair                               David Rauch
Linda Stenger, Committee Secretary                           Phiwa Langeni