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**How Are Church Finances Like a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich?**

Now there’s a stretch, comparing church finances with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.\* Let’s have some fun with it.

Both need a platform, right? Something on which to build. The PB&J sandwich platform is bread. The platform for church finances is our operating budget.

Once there is a platform, we need some “glue” to hold the “structure” together. For our sandwich it is peanut butter. For church finances our glue is infrastructure: staff, facilities and connection to the worldwide United Methodist Church. Sometimes glue, infrastructure or peanut butter, is perceived as unexciting; but imagine what our structure would be without it… loose, slippery, difficult to pin down. Peanut butter is essential for a PB&J sandwich, just as infrastructure is essential for our church.

To top off our sandwich we add jelly. Topping for church finances are programs and mission… the fun part of ministry. For the sandwich, some like strawberry jelly, others grape or “mixed fruit.” The same is true with the topping for church: some like education, others music or missions/ministry outside the church walls.

We need all components: a PB&J sandwich without peanut butter would only be a J! A church without infrastructure would result in unsupported, unfocused and ineffective ministry.

Okay, okay. So perhaps the analogy has weak spots. The bottom line is this: we need to fund infrastructure of our church so that we can do the important and fun work of ministry and mission to the community and world.

\*Credit Amber Phillips of the Washington Post who provided the impetus for this analogy in her September 27, 2017 article about tax reform.