



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

Annual Report

# 2020



*A year unlike all others...  
and we responded.*

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FG Trade/Getty Images



Cover: A daughter visits her quarantined mother in a nursing home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Presbyterian Center in Louisville sports two Black Lives Matter banners.



## ABOUT THE Presbyterian Mission Agency

*As of December 31, 2020, 713 congregations, 65 mid councils and 32 other groups had made the commitment to become Matthew 25 churches. By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, they are working to help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world.*

For over 200 years, Presbyterians have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into the world, and bearing witness to Christ's saving love to the ends of the earth. Today, the Holy Spirit is still on the move, calling us to share in what God is doing in the world.

Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage in the world, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes and serve those who are marginalized or in need — people who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned, strangers, poor or oppressed in other ways and in need of welcoming.

This work is a direct response to the good news of Jesus and a faithful expression of what it means to be Christ's disciples in this time and place. We aim to multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community.

- **Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

God calls us to serve one another using whatever gifts each of us has received. As you read through the many stories sharing the good news of God's love, we hope that you will be inspired to use your gifts and engage in mission in your neighborhoods and communities around the world.

You can find out more by visiting [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org) or by following us on Facebook and Twitter.



**PROVERBS 16:3:**  
*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*

*All are welcome at Longview Presbyterian Church.*

ISAIAH 43:19:

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

*I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*



## MESSAGE FROM

# Diane Moffett and Warren Lesane

When 2020 began, we all had great hope and aspirations for the powerful work we could do to further Jesus' message of God's love, justice and peace throughout the year. The Presbyterian Mission Agency's focus on the Matthew 25 vision was the motivating factor that drove the development of goals and strategies to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty. However, less than three months in, everything came to an abrupt halt due to COVID-19. Combined with the racial unrest that erupted in response to the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, the PMA, along with the entire nation and world, was facing an unprecedented time. Did our goals change? Did our aspirations alter? Did we stop doing ministry? No, but we did take time to consider how to be the Church and live into the Matthew 25 vision considering the realities that confronted us all. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we navigated the new terrain facing us. We discovered creative and innovative ways to do ministry, a new way to engage, inspire and connect with churches and mid councils and other groups in our denomination. Technology became our friend, awkwardly at first, but we quickly realized that worship is not confined to a building. Meetings are not limited to conference rooms. Conferences can take place through new virtual designs and approaches that make the experience meaningful. Nothing can replace the power of physical gatherings, or in-person worship and meetings. Yet, the mission of the PMA to inspire, connect and equip Presbyterians in mission continues in new and powerful ways. The agency adjusted to a "new normal." We learned that hearts can be lifted in virtual worship. Planning and strategizing can happen in digital platforms. Conferences can be presented in new and inspiring ways. Disciples can be nurtured. The Word can go forth. Ministry can take place. The mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) continues in times like these. God is doing a new thing; do you not perceive it?

During 2020, considering the dynamics of the coronavirus pandemic on churches, the PMA offered Matthew 25 grants to congregations whose survival was in question due to the impact of COVID-19. These congregations serve in communities of color and with immigrants and refugees who are disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus. Mission co-workers also continued their work with siblings in Christ, utilizing technology and discovering new ways to strengthen relationships with international communities hit hard by the pandemic.

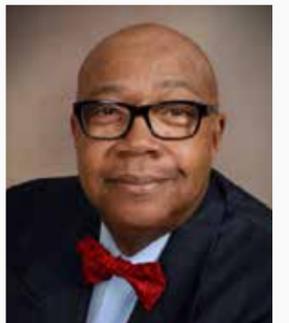
The Presbyterian Mission Agency was actively engaged in mission and ministry in 2020 because of the prayers, persistence, patience and generosity of Church members and friends like you. Thank you for your support. Thanks for all you do. We are the Church, together. We hope that the stories in this annual report reflect our work in this "new normal" and serve as a source of inspiration for you.

May we continue to be a Matthew 25 Church, reforming and responding to the times, sharing the healing and hope, the liberation and salvation that is ours in Christ Jesus.

In faith,

Diane Moffett  
President & Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Warren J. Lesane, Jr.  
Board Chair, Presbyterian Mission Agency



2020:

# A Year Unlike All Others

Rich Gopley



*Monica Lewis-Patrick and Debra Taylor are founders of We the People of Detroit, a water justice program that received funding from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People in its formative days.*

The pandemic made 2020 a year like no other, but Presbyterians demonstrated energy, intelligence, imagination, and love when learning to conduct online services on the fly while living out the Matthew 25 imperative of caring for the least of these and the three focuses of the Matthew 25 invitation: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

Soon after authorities banned in-person worship, creative leaders such as the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow walked us through how he and his flock in Palo Alto, California, practiced social distancing while still offering creative online worship.

Ladle Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church in San Diego continued to serve its neighbors in need by shifting the delivery system for the 200–300 meals it serves each Sunday.

In April, the Presbyterian Mission Agency announced it was offering Matthew 25 Continuity of Ministry Grants of up to \$7,500 to congregations whose survival may be in question due to the impact of COVID-19. Likewise, the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People was awarding grants to impacted organizations, including We the People of Detroit. That same month, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance approved more than \$1.1 million in COVID-19 grants to national, international and refugee assistance groups on top of the \$2.7 million it awarded in March to presbyteries, congregations, and international partners.

Vital Congregations began an extended online course on the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations by exploring how lifelong discipleship formation can still come about during a pandemic.

Gregg Brekke

The pandemic led Presbyterians to get creative with their giving. Some congregants gave their full-year pledge upfront. Many churches made sure their website included a way to give online.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program announced \$113,000 in grants to help nearly 50 churches and community groups build capacity to address hunger.

Aid also came from more local sources to the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. The pandemic was especially cruel to the Navajo. The Presbytery of Grand Canyon and partners raised money to assist with food donations to the 10 Presbyterian churches and chapels on the Navajo reservation.

As the pandemic wore into the summer of 2020, the PMA's Research Services found that the leaders of churches and worshiping communities were reporting more communication and deeper connections in their faith communities. The findings included people checking on one another more frequently, helping in the community, sharing resources, showing unity and growing or starting an internet presence.

A passion for compassion ministry led the Rev. Kristin Hutson from serving as a college chaplain to PDA's National Response Team. While the pandemic kept her from traveling, a midsummer derecho, a powerful windstorm that struck her hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, left her and her neighbors with plenty of recovery work to do.

Presbytery of East Iowa



*Local volunteers cleared debris from First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids.*



*The homeless community in San Diego is accustomed to coming to First Presbyterian Church in each Sunday for a hot meal, as shown here in a photo from September 2019. Currently, the church is ministering by distributing boxed meals.*

# COVID-19 pandemic inspires giving

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for more ministries that feed people who are hungry.



Holy Way Presbyterian Church, Tucson, AZ

The coronavirus is also an altogether different crisis, not bound by geography and taking a devastating toll on people directly and indirectly impacted by the disease. The virus reportedly claimed nearly 350,000 lives in the United States in 2020, making it the third leading cause of U.S. deaths, behind heart disease and cancer, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) ministries, including Compassion, Peace & Justice and Self-Development of People, helped ease the impact of the virus by awarding millions of dollars in grants and offering assistance via virtual volunteers.

## HERE'S A LOOK AT JUST SOME OF THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE PMA IN 2020:

### Big Impact, Big Aid

Less than a month into the COVID-19 pandemic, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) granted 208 requests for assistance — totaling \$1,119,688. Those grants covered domestic, refugee and international requests in an unprecedented crisis. PDA staff likened the number of grant requests and funds provided during the height of the coronavirus to the historic 2017 hurricane season, which included tropical storms Irma, Maria and Harvey. In late March, as the scope of the crisis began to take shape, PDA announced it would be making \$2.7 million in grants available to mid councils (synods and presbyteries), congregations and international partners. PDA's commitments continued to grow from there. PDA is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. It is supported by gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

### Grant Helps Secure Housing

City Roots Community Land Trust in Rochester, New York, works to get people of modest incomes into quality homes, with the support of organizations such as the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP). But the COVID-19 pandemic has turned the group's focus to keeping people in those homes, as many workers' employment — and income — was halted at the start of the outbreak. City Roots received a \$15,000 grant from SDOP, which it put toward exterior work on a property it was

rehabilitating. The Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson, coordinator of SDOP, called City Roots' efforts to help residents through this time "attestation of the commitment to take care of those in the community who face a double pandemic, so to speak, of poverty and COVID-19." SDOP is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

### 'Rainy Day' Funds Aid Disaster Response

In March 2020, during the infancy of the COVID-19 pandemic, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) pulled more than \$2 million out of its reserves to help aid response to the coronavirus pandemic. The "rainy day" fund, fortified in part by gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, is used to supplement unsupported or under-supported disaster responses. Money was divided between international response and grants to mid councils (synods and presbyteries) and their congregations to support work in response to and impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Contributions helped address several unmet needs of those at risk due to the impact of COVID-19, such as feeding, housing, and access to health care. "This time is a shifting of reality as we know it, and for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and these grants, this is just one way we can contribute to restoration," said the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the PMA.

### SDOP Grant Helps Group Combat 'Double Pandemic'

Thousands of dollars contributed by the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) helped We the People of Detroit, a not-for-profit organization, respond during a "double pandemic." While addressing Michigan's water crisis remains as part of the group's mission, COVID-19 has presented a new set of challenges, including, "How are people supposed to fight the coronavirus if they can't wash their hands?" The group spearheaded scientific and demographic research, illustrating the parallels between water deprivation and race, poor health and other inequities. "I don't think we can ever talk about where we are now without mentioning SDOP," said Monica Lewis-Patrick, co-founder of We the People of Detroit. One of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, SDOP is supported by gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

ACT Alliance



SDOP



Top: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's COVID-19 grants are awarded to both domestic and international faith communities and organizations, including those in the Philippines.

Bottom: Self-Development of People (SDOP) National Committee Member Samantha Paige Davis (left) visits with City Roots in Rochester, N.Y. City Roots Executive Director Joe Di Fiore is fourth from the left.

# Working for Racial Justice



The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, helps lead Saturday's march for racial justice in downtown Louisville.

Rich Copley

## Cultivating Leadership

Young Presbyterian women are being prepared for congregational involvement and community leadership thanks to workshops and training led by Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries. Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries present young women with resources and leadership opportunities. Answering the Matthew 25 invitation, they are taught the importance of forging togetherness, dismantling racism and examining how government policies affect oppressed populations. Alexis Presseau Maloof, ruling elder of the United Presbyterian Church of Peoria in Peoria, Illinois, teaches English at a private Islamic school and led a racial justice book club discussion. She used what she learned at a PMA Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference and Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Day to make an impact in her community and congregation.

## Taking A Stand With Art

The international headquarters of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville bore witness to God's love for Black lives and solidarity with calls for an end to systemic racism on its exterior wall in August. As part of the Presbyterian Week of Action, a series of projections affirming Black lives were displayed. The deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Tony McDade, which fueled a national uprising against police violence and systemic racism, inspired the summer 2020 demonstration. "As a Matthew 25 denomination, it is the vision of our Church to eradicate white supremacy and dismantle institutionalized racism," says the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Moffett and her fellow Presbyterian leaders maintain that dismantling structural racism, which is part of the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 invitation, is a biblical imperative. Most recently, that has fueled the formation of the Church's Bearing Witness Committee to provide resources and action toward that goal.

## Redeeming A Racist Bequest

Since discovering their church was built a century ago partly through funds donated "for the white race only," members and leadership of Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati committed to end the sin of systemic racism, all while working hard not to duck the church's history. Church trustees at the time accepted the gift — worth about \$258,000 in today's dollars — with no discussion. Rather than villainize the donor or her donation, church leadership, led by the session, decided to tell Knox's story broadly and confess it. The session convened congregational listening groups, and then engaged in a three-part racial justice ministry: Listen, Learn and Act. It committed to the Matthew 25 invitation and budgeted \$50,000 of its about \$1.7 million financial plan each year to support the work of racial justice.

## The Church's Role In Racism

The starting place for all people must be recognizing each person as a person of value, says the Rev. Dr. Mark Lomax, founding pastor of First Afrikan Presbyterian Church in Lithonia, Georgia. "I think in the United States the perception, whether conscious or unconscious, is that we (Black people) still are not perceived as fully human. ... In some way, consciously or subconsciously, we are still perceived as chattel (movable personal property)," he says. This and committing to the Matthew 25 vision are the means of securing racial justice. The Office of Gender & Racial Justice in the Presbyterian Mission Agency assists the church in this commitment to become more open and inclusive in an effort to create an environment where a person's identities, whatever they may be, do not hinder their ability to fully live out their call in the church and society. Lomax touts the Black Lives Matter movement for raising tough questions in the public square. "I think that's inspiration, to see those diverse movements around our country," he says.



Top: Alexis Presseau Maloof and her son attend cultural day at the Islamic school where Maloof teaches English.

Bottom: The Rev. Dr. Mark Lomax

# Eradicating Systemic Poverty

## Eradicating Poverty Through Education

PC(USA) World Mission partners teamed up with the Rev. Dr. Mark Snelling, a pastor in the Seattle Presbytery, to eradicate systemic poverty through education. The group, upholding the vision of Matthew 25, started a bilingual Christian school to help impoverished children in Mexico break out of the cycle of poverty in a holistic and sustainable way. Centro Cultural Tikvah, coined the international school for hope in Mazatlán, Mexico, provides bilingual education, computer training and entrepreneurial financial management skills training while developing a deep

*A community garden at Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church in St. Louis is a source of fresh produce the church donates to people in need.*



Erica Abbott

Zac Morton



*The Rev. Zac Morton, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown, W. Va., made an eight-day, 150-mile walk to the state Capitol in Charleston to raise awareness and compassion about “houselessness” and extreme poverty in West Virginia.*

personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The students represent a blend of economic backgrounds. The school is an outgrowth of Snelling’s work with mission partners in nutrition centers throughout Mazatlán’s poorest neighborhoods and similar mission projects in Senegal, West Africa.

## Hunger Ministries Persevere Despite Pandemic

Presbyterian churches across the country stepped up to feed people who are hungry, using ingenuity and elbow grease to help their communities despite being thrown some curve balls by the coronavirus. Adapting with social distancing, eliminating large gatherings, sanitizing efforts, an increase in clients and grocery stock restrictions were just some of the challenges. Hunger Action Congregations, supported by the Presbyterian Hunger Program and One Great Hour of Sharing contributions, have fed individuals and families as the virus has closed schools and businesses and driven many into unemployment. “Through One Great Hour of Sharing, PHP is able to network with and support these and other excellent congregational ministries,” PHP coordinator Rebecca Barnes said.

## SDOP Grant Helps Group Combat ‘Double Pandemic’

Thousands of dollars contributed by the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) helped We the People of Detroit, a not-for-profit organization, respond during a “double pandemic.” While addressing Michigan’s water crisis remains as part of the group’s mission, COVID-19 has presented a new set of challenges, including, “How are people supposed to fight the coronavirus if they

can’t wash their hands?” The group spearheaded scientific and demographic research, illustrating the parallels between water deprivation and race, poor health and other inequities. “I don’t think we can ever talk about where we are now without mentioning SDOP,” said Monica Lewis-Patrick, co-founder of the Detroit-based organization. One of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the PMA, SDOP is supported by gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

## Walking To End ‘Houselessness’

Matthew 25:31–46 calls on us to actively engage in the world around us ... to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. The Rev. Zachary Morton, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown, West Virginia, confronted this mission head-on with an eight-day, 150-mile walk to the state Capitol in Charleston to raise awareness and compassion about “houselessness” and extreme poverty in West Virginia. Morton’s #Walk4WV raised more than \$6,500 that went directly to helping citizens in Morgantown secure stable housing. The PMA’s Compassion, Peace & Justice (CPJ) ministry engages with Presbyterians and partners across the U.S. to end poverty and hunger, just as Morton did with his walk. CPJ is supported by contributions to the PMA through local congregations.



Wilshire Presbyterian Church

*Wilshire Presbyterian Church’s food pantry volunteers packed a week’s worth of groceries for more than 400 families during the peak of the COVID crisis in Los Angeles in November 2020.*

# Building Congregational Vitality

## Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation

- Lifelong Discipleship Formation
- Intentional Authentic Evangelism
- Outward Incarnational Focus
- Empower Servant Leadership
- Spirit-Inspired Worship
- Caring Relationships
- Ecclesial Health

## Helping Leaders Lead

The Vital Congregations Initiative's Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation help prepare church leaders for being at the helm, especially during a pandemic. With traditional worship curbed, the marks help churches adapt. Lifelong Discipleship Formation encourages churches to examine programs, identifying what's working and what's not. Building Authentic Relationships teaches the importance of trust among pastors and "connectional churches." A virtual VC gathering in August featured panelists from Trinity Presbytery in Lexington, South Carolina. One speaker told the nearly 100 participants that the marks and the Bible verses that go with them quickly became part of her day-to-day thinking. "You naturally begin to embody the marks," she said. Leaders engaged in the VC initiative continue to adapt and find creative ways of doing the work in covenant with the Office of Vital Congregations, housed in the Theology, Formation & Evangelism ministries in the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

*Collide, a new worshiping community in Bellingham, Wash. is a partnership among Bellingham's three Presbyterian Church(U.S.A.) congregations and Northwest coast Presbytery.*



Gregg Brekke

Contributed photo



*The Rev. Neil Ricketts, a pastor in central Florida, says he has a new sense of hope for his church and the denomination after going through the Vital Congregations facilitator training.*

## Hope For The Church's Future

The Presbyterian Mission Agency's Vital Congregations Initiative helps address denominations' membership decline by getting back to the values of the early church: discipleship, evangelism and outreach, and the raising up of Christ-centered disciples, says the Rev. Neil Ricketts. The pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Apopka, Florida, is one of many congregational leaders who showed their commitment to implementing a plan for a healthy church by attending a two-day facilitator training in July 2020. Participants take a deep look at themselves as the church, discerning God's plan for their lives as a community of faith. As congregations assess both their strengths and areas that need work, they begin to discern what God's Spirit is calling them to do — and faithfully join Christ in the new thing, or change, that's taking place.

## Colliding With Jesus

All can "Collide" with Jesus, regardless of disabilities, brokenness and other differences. Collide, a 1001 new worshiping community in Bellingham, Washington, is a partner ministry among Bellingham's three Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and Northwest Coast Presbytery. It was conceived by a group of women in search of healing. God was calling them to experiment with a new ministry for women, says Willow Weston, the founder and director. Through conferences, counseling, mentoring and a curriculum of Bible studies, Collide teaches women that Jesus meets people in their brokenness and uses them there, encouraging people to be more of who they were made to be. The Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) provided financial support to Collide via Mission Program Grants. Available through the Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries of the PMA, the grants support transforming work of new worshiping communities and mid councils.

## Children's Ministries Embrace Matthew 25 Vision

Matthew 25 tells us to feed people who are hungry, provide water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and welcome the stranger. These basic tenets of Christianity aren't limited to adults, though. It starts with children. The Children's Ministries at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis believes that children should be focused on what adults are focused on when it comes to mission and ministry. Coat drives, food pantries, community gardens, drive-through Vacation Bible School parades and blessing of the animals are just a few of the ways the youth are practicing radical hospitality. Efforts didn't stop during the pandemic. The youths continue to embrace the Matthew 25 vision.



Second Presbyterian Church

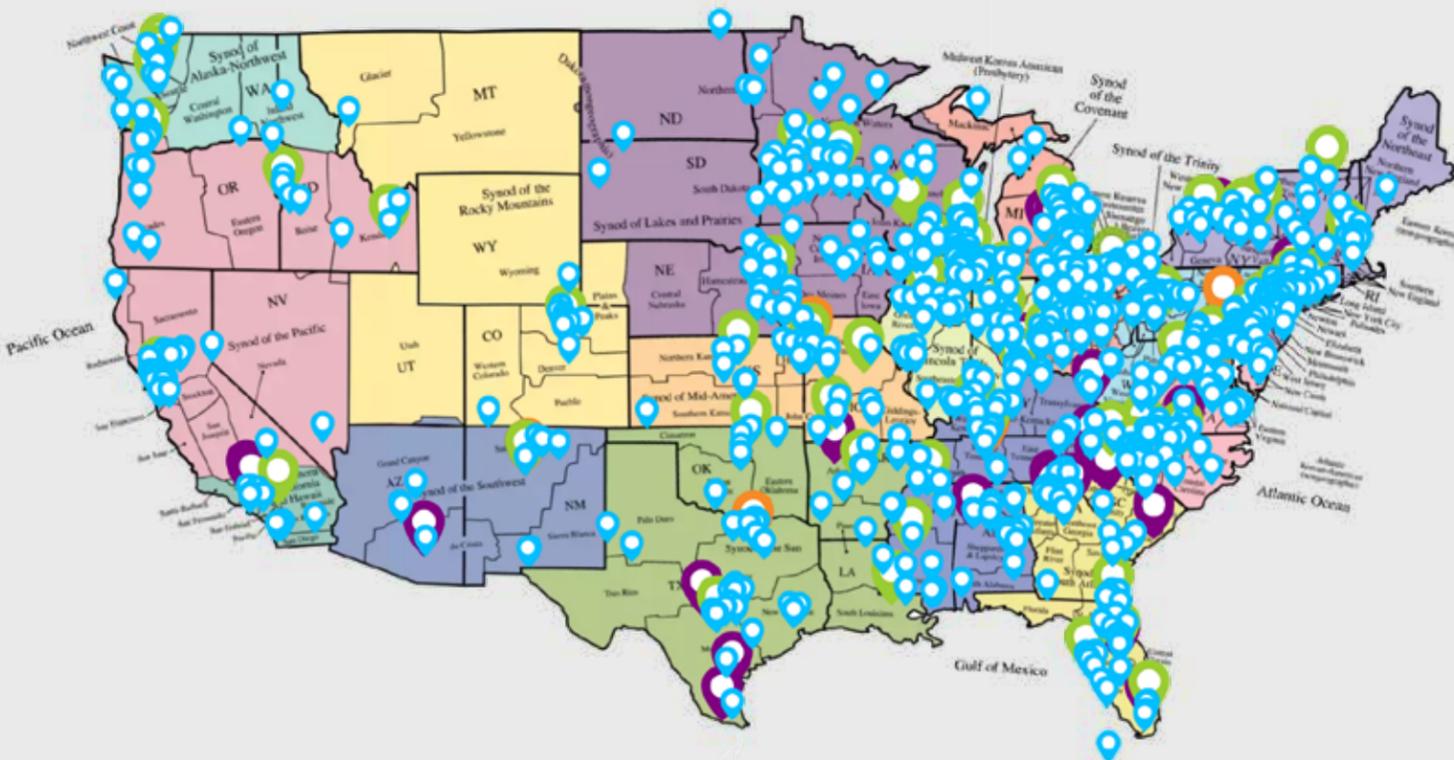
*A sign at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis greets guests at a canned goods drop-off for the food pantry.*

## Striving to Remain Relevant

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Matthew 25 invitation gave Light of Hope Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia, language to articulate what the Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz says they've been doing for a while — out of necessity. Three older, white congregations in Cherokee Presbytery that were in decline dissolved and merged into Light of Hope. The church is primarily focused on congregational vitality, but racism and acceptance also became important because its new home community was 60% people of color, making it a multi-ethnic congregation. Many of the older members in the new faith community were even embarrassed to have a Hispanic pastor, says Gonzalez- Gertz. Regardless, attendees of different races, economic statuses and abilities are all brought together with meals, singing and communion.

## BUILDING CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

Challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.

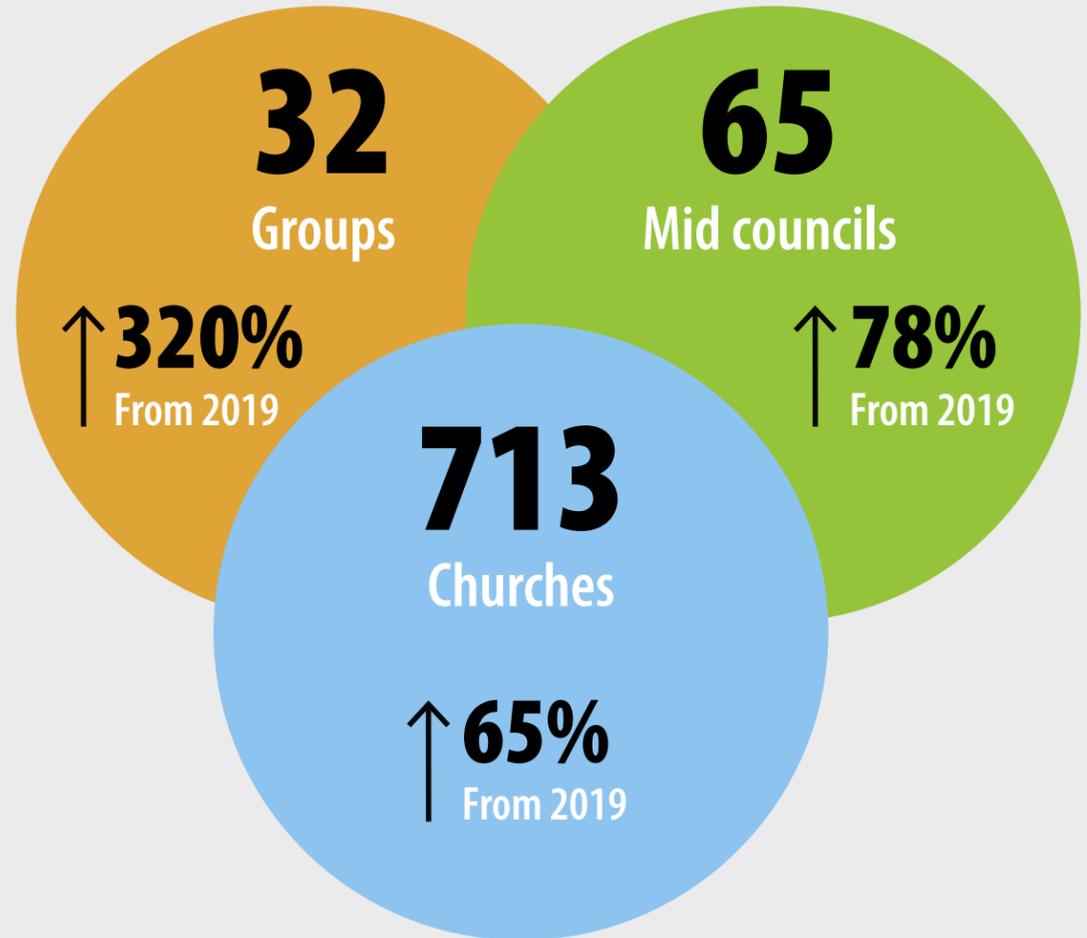


## DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM

Fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

## ERADICATING SYSTEMIC POVERTY

Acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



# Bringing Mission Co-Workers Home

## Mission Work Continues As Virus Sends Co-Workers, Volunteers Home

The rise of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 forced many Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) World Mission co-workers to return to the United States. The move, recommended by the State Department, did not interrupt support of global partners. World Mission's crisis management team met with each co-worker regularly to ensure the integrity of mission work. Those who returned home were quarantined and received assistance with housing. Others who were hindered by borders and airports being closed were aided with shelter-in-place and evacuation plans. The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program also closed its international sites during the pandemic. Prayers and financial gifts support World Mission. Both are important more now than ever before to help maintain the safety and health of mission personnel called and commissioned by the PC(USA) to serve around the world. **Here's a look at a few of their journeys in 2020:**



## Public Safety In Africa

Husband and wife team Larry and Inge Sthresley chose to stay their post in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) despite the growing number of COVID-19 cases. The two work to provide medical care and battle child malnourishment in four provinces of the country. Much like fighting Ebola in the DRC, their work during the coronavirus pandemic involves identifying cases, contact tracing and distributing masks and educational materials.

*“Despite the pandemic, Presbyterian mission workers continue to serve God’s mission throughout the world. Some — for a variety of reasons — returned to the U.S. Many of us stayed in our countries of service. Wherever we are, our work continues: accompanying, encouraging and teaching. We go on serving as witnesses to God’s gracious presence throughout this stricken world.” — Maribel Smith, Argentina*

## Going Virtual To Stay Connected

Volunteers who planned to join the Rev. Sharon Bryant in Thailand last spring were held up by the pandemic’s travel restrictions, forced to remain in their home countries. Bryant instead adapted, communicating with weekly “check-in calls” on Zoom. She also used Zoom to virtually visit churches at home and share stories of ministry.

## Border Lock Down

The travel ban caught Dennis and Maribel Smith in a lock down in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Latin America, sheltering in place is not an option due to food insecurity. The Smiths praised Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) as well as local PC(USA) congregations that worked to provide emergency solidarity grants to several mission partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, enabling them to continue food assistance programs to vulnerable populations whose situations have worsened because of COVID-19.

## Continuing To Serve, Despite Separation

Scott and Elmarie Parker were separated by 10 time zones. Scott sheltered in place in Lebanon while his wife, Elmarie, was stuck in the United States due to the travel ban. Elmarie stayed with relatives in Oregon, continuing mission efforts virtually through email, Skype and other online platforms, while Scott served on the ground in the Middle East. The duo communicated daily to coordinate work and nourish their long-distance relationship.

## Mission Working From Home

Jose LaMont Jones planned to visit churches and build support for his ministry in Kinshasa, DRC, last fall, but his plans were delayed due to the global pandemic. Not wasting any time, he continued to work creatively in the United States realizing his call to serve —



Crystal Stafford

helping local congregations make masks, delivering meals and shopping for seniors. Jones, during the separation, continued to collaborate and pray virtually with mission co-workers.



Dennis and Maribel Smith, Argentina.

*Red Mongana soap is a popular brand in Democratic Republic of Congo and will be purchased for health facilities in the fight to protect the Congolese from the coronavirus.*

# Disaster Response

## Helping From Response To Recovery

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) virtually deployed its National Response Team to assist with wildfire response in Oregon. If not for travel bans associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, members like Mike Bullard would be on the ground in Oregon. Instead, he is helping Cascades Presbytery navigate grant requests and FEMA declarations and offering practical advice from his home in Northern Idaho. By September of last year, Oregon had four fires of 100,000 acres or more. Those fires claimed the homes of several dozen families in the presbytery. PDA is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. To ensure PDA's quick response to catastrophic events, gift financial contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.

*Firefighters gather in front of Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of San Jose. The church sustained minor damage in a wildfire.*



## Coming Together To Rebuild

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) deployed a virtual disaster response team to assist the Presbytery of South Louisiana as the area was clobbered by hurricanes Laura, Delta and Sally; Tropical Storm Beta; and a global pandemic. PDA also awarded church damage grants to four churches in the presbytery experiencing the most significant damage, some suffering roof and water damage, missing walls and more. COVID-19 travel restrictions also implored local congregations to help – building relationships and sharing supplies and gift cards. Churches that are still rebuilding after Hurricane Michael two years earlier even stepped up to aid repair efforts. Christina Drake, disaster recovery coordinator for the Presbytery of South Louisiana, is inspired by the efforts put forth by pastors and other volunteers coming together to rebuild. To support PDA's hurricane response, give to Disaster Relief-Hurricane and Typhoon Relief (DR000194).

***“I have been amazed by what can be accomplished by a virtual deployment. Our National Volunteers have stepped up and adapted so that PDA can continue to offer (virtual) ministry of presence to presbytery and congregational leadership impacted by a disaster.” – Jim Kirk, PDA's Associate for Disaster Response in the U.S.***



## Navigating Wildfire Response

Struck by two wildfires, the Presbytery of San Jose received support from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in the form of virtual response and assistance grant funding. The Presbytery of San Jose is just south of San Francisco, stretching from Palo Alto south to Monterey. Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church northwest of Santa Cruz sustained damage and about a half-dozen families have lost homes to the blazes, leaving a long road to recovery. PDA offered assistance to that community while supporting food banks and other agencies. Its task force continues beyond the disaster to help with preparedness and response for future events. PDA is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. It is supported by One Great Hour of Sharing.



Rich Copley



Murray Richmond

*Top: The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Associate Director for Advocacy, says Presbyterians can have impact on all levels of government.*

*Bottom: First Presbyterian Church of Medford set up a temporary shelter for people displaced by the nearby Almeda fire in Phoenix and Talent, Ore.*

*Left: Heavy smoke surrounds the Springfield Presbyterian Church, near Estacada, Ore., which was threatened by one of the large fires.*

# Advocacy and Social Justice

The Presbyterian Week of Action culminated in the Justice Rally and March on August 29, 2020 at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville.



## Involvement In Politics Is Foundational To Faith

Leaders in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ministries say involvement in political issues is foundational to faith. Speaking out on issues, the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins and others say, is following the lead of Jesus Christ. “You cannot read Scripture and not talk about justice. It’s throughout the pages,” says Hawkins, director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness. He adds that the idea of the separation of church and state is often misinterpreted. The notion doesn’t discourage engagement; it’s meant to protect the rights of people of faith so the government can’t dictate what should be believed. It is up to church leaders and their constituents to decide which leaders best represent their beliefs. There is a difference between being political and being partisan. Church leaders do not endorse or denounce specific politicians or political parties, and there are no financial contributions to or from politicians. They focus on issues. The Office of Public Witness and Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy are Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

## Marching For Social Justice

The Presbyterian Week of Action from Aug. 24–30 drew thousands of Presbyterians and their partners to the streets of Louisville and other cities across the country. Demanding social justice, advocates called for an end to racial violence while remembering the lives of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. Nearly 150 people marched eight blocks from the Presbyterian Center to downtown Louisville. Speakers at the rally implored the crowd to take concrete actions toward justice and away from violence. “Let’s go out into the streets of this city and be the re-presentation of Jesus, doing what we know God calls us to do,” said the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. “We aren’t being political” by rallying and marching,” she said. “We are being deeply spiritual and moral.”

## Campaign Urges Presbyterians To Vote

Amid an intense political climate ahead of the November presidential election, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched a campaign to increase voter turnout. The online effort sought to engage and motivate voters, particularly people of marginalized communities, to exercise their right to vote. The campaign featured a website, webinars, social media and various educational resources. The goal was to encourage Presbyterians and other like-minded individuals with a desire to end structural racism and see the country change for the better to take a step toward making that happen by showing up at the polls or requesting and completing their absentee ballots. The PC(USA) Votes 2020 campaign was supported by Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries, the Office of Public Witness and the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

## Forgiven Debts Spark Second Chances

Thanks to fundraising efforts by five faith communities in southeastern Minnesota, 1,057 households in Minnesota and Wisconsin were forgiven of more than \$2 million in medical debt. Matthew 25 churches of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partnered with New York-based nonprofit RIP Medical Debt to put the \$15,000 they raised as part of an ecumenical Lenten project to work. RIP purchases medical debt in bulk for a fraction of its original cost. The debt is erased millions of dollars at a time for pennies on the dollar. The project made it so families in need were no longer liable for medical debt, giving them a chance to start over and build better credit.

Rich Copley



Carter Anderson used his musical gifts to add to the march and rally, part of the Presbyterian Week of Action in Louisville.

Rich Copley



Ashe Helm-Hernández, co-founder of Tiger’s Eye Cooperative, speaks to the crowd gathered at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville for the Week of Action march and rally.

# Peace and Reconciliation

## Webinar Series Targets Gun Violence

Domestic violence and weapons in urban settings are just two of the topics targeted by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program's gun violence prevention webinar series. The 14-part "Standing Our Holy Ground," rolled out in just under a year, presents sobering problems, statistical realities and paths to solutions when it comes to gun violence. The series also looks at how firearm violence intersects with poverty, education, racism, mental health, media and other issues, while incorporating a wide range of experts and steps to take action. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, supported by the Peace & Global Witness Offering, is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The webinar series is archived on the Peacemaking Program's website, along with educational materials related to each episode.

*Before the pandemic, International Peacemakers would visit the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville as well as mid councils around the country. Here, a group of International Peacemakers gathers during a PC(USA) chapel service.*



## Calming Words Amid Election Uncertainty

At a time when political unrest caused uncertainty for many, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offered words of encouragement and advice to help ease the minds of anxious Presbyterians. The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II spoke during a virtual chapel service hosted by the Office of Public Witness ahead of November's presidential election. While the leadership of the United States was still unclear last fall, he spoke to a virtual audience of 90. "We took up the task as people of faith to follow that God to the end, no matter the outcome," he said. Nelson urged worshipers to continue to serve in God's plan: "No matter who the president or vice president might be, God has a plan to lift the spirits of the faithful and love those who have been dispossessed." The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness advocates, and helps the church advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the General Assembly.

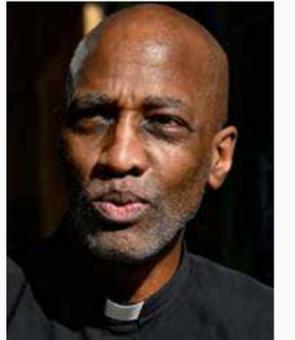
## Peacemakers' Symposium Goes Virtual

Sixteen individuals who had transformative experiences in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Peacemaking Program participated in the first-ever International Peacemaker Virtual Symposium last fall. Speakers, including Zimbabwe's the Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, moderator of the Council of World Mission, shared their stories via videos posted online. Normally, Peacemakers take part in an orientation at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville and then visit mid

councils around the United States. But that wasn't possible because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some shared their thoughts on the Black Lives Matter Movement in the United States and how it affects their countries. The Rev. Carl Horton, coordinator of the Peacemaking Program, found it interesting "to hear a global perspective of ... a year of racial reckoning." The symposium, held during the Season of Peace, concluded with World Communion Sunday, which is also the day of the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

## 'Virtual Choir Of Peacemakers'

As the COVID-19 pandemic hindered travel, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program sought to bring the world together — through song. International Peacemakers, participants in its travel-study seminars and others combined to create a "virtual choir." The group prerecorded and synced tracks of "This is My Song," part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "Glory to God" hymnal. The international ensemble, which can be downloaded for use in virtual church services, started as a response to the pandemic, but it simultaneously confronted systemic racism in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. "To be able to offer something that speaks to peace and unity, to offer something tangible, felt like a really important thing to do," said organizer Beth Mueller. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, supported by the Peace & Global Witness Offering, is one of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Rich Copley



*Top: The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), urges Presbyterians to serve in God's plan regardless of political climate.*

*Bottom: Beth Mueller is worship arts director at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, and organizer of the virtual choir project.*



*Left: A choir of 38 International Peacemakers shared a video of their singing the hymn "This is My Song."*

## Gracious Giving, Decreased Expenses Make For Good Financial Year

Now in its seventh, record-breaking year, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog offers a wide variety of gifts that provide real and positive impact around the world, and it has earned strong support from donors, congregations and mid councils. The catalog's most popular opportunities: providing aid for refugees, giving communities access to clean water and helping to end hunger.



## A New Financial Reality

Looking back on a year in which charitable giving across the board was expected to drop precipitously, the unanticipated increase in the number of individuals and congregations supporting Presbyterian Mission throughout 2020 was nothing short of miraculous, surpassing all expectations.

All told, 2020 was a year of unprecedented generosity, with individual Presbyterians giving directly to ministries of hunger relief, disaster assistance, education and witness at rates not seen before.

***“Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!” — Luke 12:48 (MSG)***

The year began with promising first-quarter giving, which forecast a record year when COVID-19 struck in March. And yet despite 2020's dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial unrest and the toll they took on the nation's economy, more and more Presbyterians came together to continue building the kingdom of God through their acts of financial stewardship, reflecting the national trend of larger donor numbers giving smaller gifts.

Giving from throughout the Presbyterian connectional system continued to take strides toward recovery as the year went on, with many congregations and mid councils returning to participation in the Special Offerings with new educational and interpretive approaches to

ministry. Congregations reported increased support with greater and more consistent connections made through videos and testimonial content.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) has multiple income streams that include contributions, endowments, interest and dividends, and other income. The endowments, interest and dividend income provided a stable revenue source during 2020. Contribution revenue, which makes up approximately 50% of the income budget, is where the PMA felt only

a surprisingly modest impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. The actual amount received was only 6% less than budgeted. Total revenue and other support came in only 2% less than budgeted. These trends, coupled with underspending on the expense side of the PMA budget, yielded a good result, which is good news for the PMA and its faithful supporters.

As Presbyterians demonstrated once again that they are thoughtful and generous donors, the PMA ended the year in a much better financial position than was originally expected. Taking to heart Christ's message in Luke 12:48, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required," the PMA commits to continuing its careful stewardship of the funds with which it has been entrusted.



Menaul School

DREAAM



During the pandemic, DREAAM's Dream Big! Learning Centers have provided educational and social emotional support. DREAAM, an acronym for Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males, is funded in part from the Pentecost Offering, one of the PC(USA)'s four Special Offerings.

Students at Menaul School, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related secondary school in Albuquerque, N.M., receive individualized attention in a rigorous and diverse academic environment. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the PC(USA)'s four Special Offerings, help Menaul extend scholarships to students who need financial assistance.

# Communications for the Digital Age

## Reaching New Audiences With Streaming

Livestreaming its Sunday morning worship service is nothing new for Westminster Presbyterian Church. The West Chester, Pennsylvania, church, one of the PC(USA)'s 1001 Worshiping Communities, made the move back in 2017 when it sought to expand its reach to residents of local retirement communities. Because of mobility issues, some residents couldn't make it to Sunday worship on a bus, so streaming helped bridge the gap. Not everyone was on board to go virtual at first, but the church soon found that the videos helped expand the church's reach. Westminster created opportunities for new communities worshipping together — drawing prospective members and allowing traveling members to stay involved with the congregation when they can't come to worship. Members' gifts helped purchase the hardware and equipment needed to livestream.

*Residents of the Maris Grove retirement community enjoy livestreamed services from nearby Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania.*



Westminster Presbyterian Church

## '1001' Grant Supports Virtual Ministry

Imagine being able to ascend the steps of your hometown church, all while sitting in the comfort of your home office or living room. This virtual reality (VR) experience is made possible by a 1001 New Worshiping Communities Seed Grant from the PC(USA)'s Mission Program Grants. The contribution brought to life CHVRCH+, a VR church fellowship that features a digital re-creation of First Miami Presbyterian Church in Florida. Users attend Sunday worship, contribute gifts and inquire about mission work on an online platform. Each VR session draws more than 40 users. Virtual connections encourage users to get involved in the physical church. CHVRCH+'s success has organizers exploring the sustainability of VR and its cost-effectiveness versus physical ministries. Mission Program Grants are made available through the Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries of the PMA.

## Podcast Challenges Listeners To Think In 'New Way'

"How do we, as people of faith, show up and organize in the relentless chaos of our time?" asks the Rev. Sara Hayden, director of Apprenticeships, Residencies and Leadership Cohorts for the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement. Hayden is the host of "New Way," a podcast of the 1001 movement. The podcast challenges listeners to explore tensions of racial injustice, the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision and invitation, and the movement for Black lives. Discussion topics also include racial disparities within the criminal justice and health systems. In the first six months of its fifth season, "New Way" more than doubled its estimated listenership to 1,500 weekly listeners.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

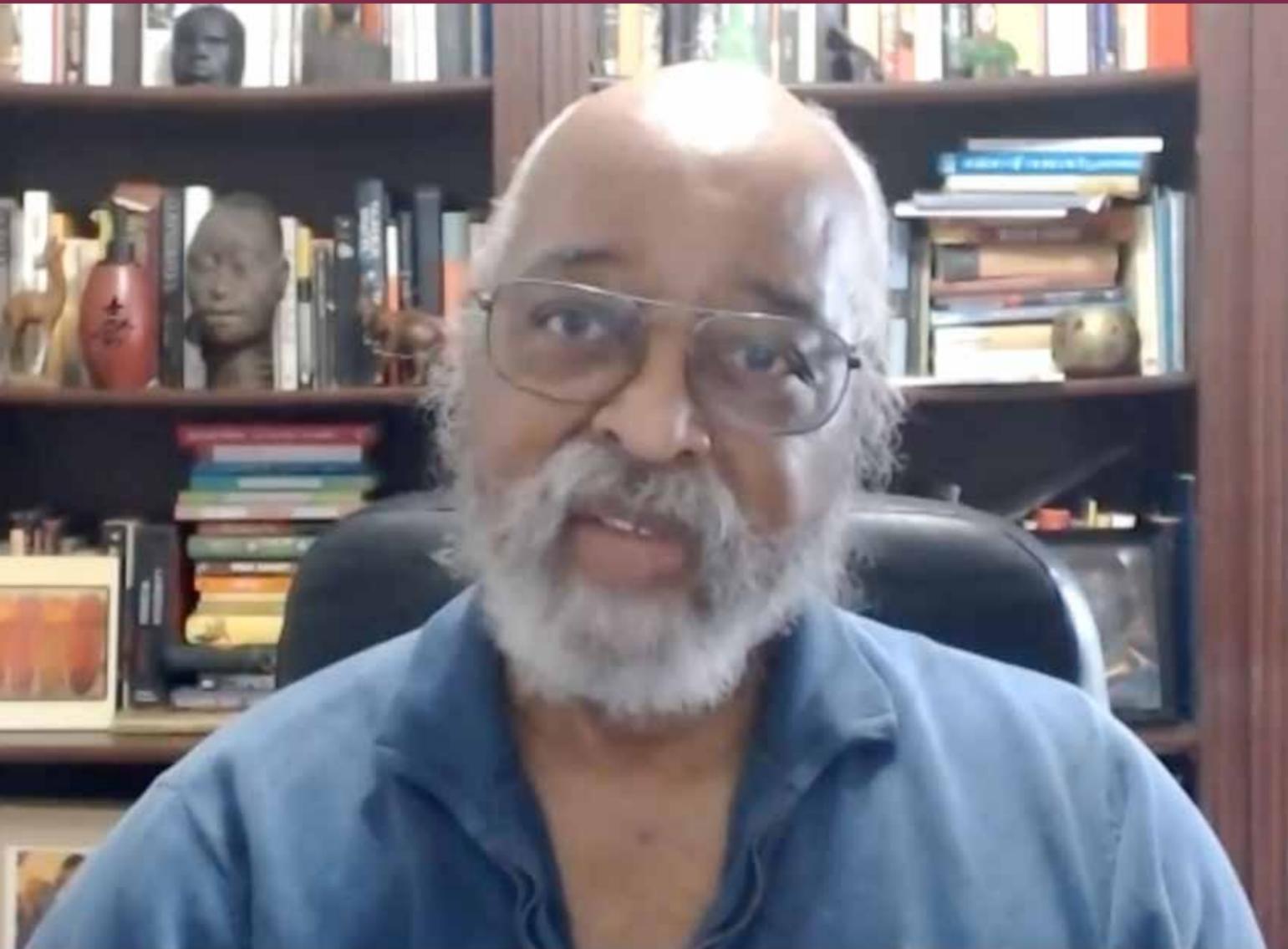


Westminster Presbyterian Church

*Top: Services livestreamed by Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania provide people who are traveling or who can't be in worship the opportunity to connect each Sunday with their friends and fellow members.*

*Bottom: As part of their worship together, residents of the Maris Grove retirement community in Pennsylvania are provided communion and take an offering.*

# Board Members (As of March 2020)



*During 2020, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board held its meetings virtually via Zoom call. Here, member James Parks addresses the Board.*

## **Coordinating Committee**

Kenneth Godshall  
Warren Lesane (chair)  
Kathy Maurer  
Diane Moffett (ex-officio)  
James Parks  
Brenton Thompson  
Shannan Vance-Ocampo (chair-elect)  
Judith Wellington  
Nicholas Yoda

## **Personnel & Nominating**

Sallie Watson  
Floretta Barbee-Watkins  
Bong Bringas  
James Parks  
Tamara Williams  
Nicholas Yoda (chair)  
Dee Cooper  
Kevin Johnson

## **Property/Legal**

Jyungin (Jenny) Lee  
Kenneth Godshall (chair)  
Patsy Smith  
Brenton Thompson  
Michelle Hwang

## **Resource Allocation & Stewardship**

Sinthia Hernandez-Diaz  
Kathy Maurer (chair)  
Judith Wellington

Rola Al Ashkar  
SanDawna Ashley  
Mary Jane Gordon  
Kate Murphy

## **Nurture the Body**

Patsy Smith  
Brenton Thompson (chair)  
Tamara Williams  
Nicholas Yoda  
J. Christian Giesler  
Mary Jane Gordon  
Michelle Hwang  
Kate Murphy

## **Mid Councils**

Jyungin (Jenny) Lee  
Floretta Barbee-Watkins  
Sinthia Hernandez-Diaz  
Judith Wellington (chair)  
SanDawna Ashley  
Kevin Johnson

## **Outreach to the World**

Sallie Watson  
Bong Bringas  
Kenneth Godshall  
Kathy Maurer  
James Parks (chair)  
Yvette Noble-Bloomfield  
Rola Al Ashkar  
Dee Cooper

## **Corresponding Members**

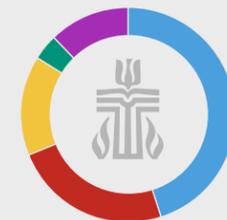
Gregory Bentley  
Co-moderator, 224th General Assembly (2020)  
David Dobson  
President, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation  
Rt. Rev. J. Christian Giesler  
Ecumenical Advisory Member, Moravian Church  
Kathy Lueckert  
President, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation  
Diane Moffett  
Executive Director/President, Presbyterian Mission Agency  
J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of the General Assembly  
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield  
Ecumenical Advisory Member, United Church of Jamaica  
and Cayman Islands  
James G. Rissler  
President, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program Inc.  
Frank C. Spencer  
President, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Elona Street-Stewart  
Co-moderator, 224th General Assembly (2020)  
Thomas F. Taylor  
President and CEO, Presbyterian Foundation

With gratitude for their service and ministry, we acknowledge the following board members who also served in 2020:  
Beverly Brewster

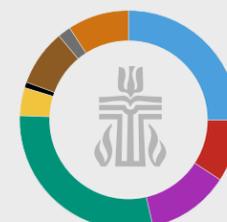


# Sources of Financial Support

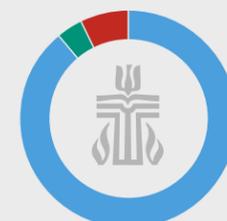
There are four main sources of funds for the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: contributions; endowments, interest and dividends; sales of resources and special events; and per capita. Total Presbyterian Mission Agency budget for 2020 was \$68.9 million. Net assets were \$649.1 million.



Sources of Funds (in millions)	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions	\$ 5.0	\$ 26.5	\$ 31.5
Endowments, Interest and Dividends	9.2	8.0	17.2
Sales of Resources and Special Events	8.4	2.2	10.6
Per Capita	2.8	–	2.8
Planned Use of (Additions to) Reserve Funds	(1.8)	8.6	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23.6</b>	<b>\$ 45.3</b>	<b>\$ 68.9</b>



Use of Funds (in millions)	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Compassion, Peace & Justice	\$ 2.7	\$ 14.9	\$ 17.6
Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries	1.9	4.3	6.2
Theology, Formation & Evangelism	3.7	4.7	8.4
World Mission	4.1	15.9	20.0
Communications	1.7	0.9	2.6
Mission Engagement & Support	0.5	–	0.5
Administrative Services Group	5.6	–	5.6
General & Administrative	1.2	0.4	1.6
Other	2.2	4.2	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23.6</b>	<b>\$ 45.3</b>	<b>\$ 68.9</b>



Stewardship of Mission and PMA Per Capita Funds	Percentage
Program Expenses	89%
Management and General Expenses	4%
Fundraising Expenses	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: The complete audited, consolidated financial statements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, for the year 2020 may be obtained at [presbyterianmission.org/financials](https://presbyterianmission.org/financials) or by contacting the Presbyterian Mission Agency at 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202, 800-728-7228.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202  
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