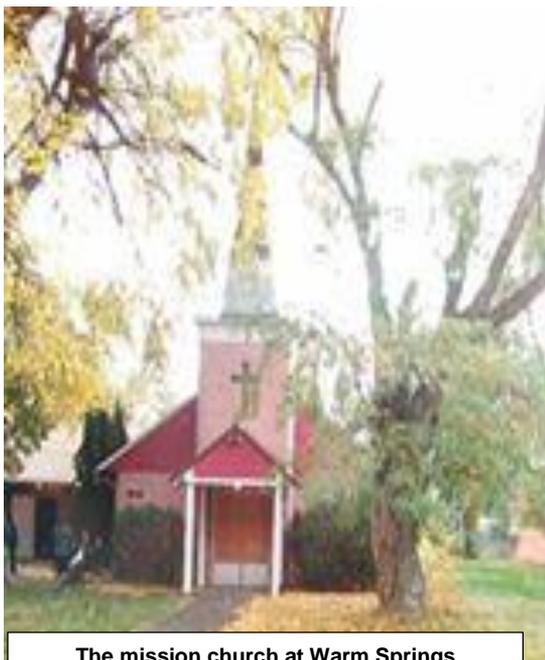




Reaching Beyond Your Congregation

Presbyterian Partnership Giving for 2018



The mission church at Warm Springs

Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the direction I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4



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In 2003, the 215th General Assembly adopted the partnership policy as the way we do mission. Together we develop a cooperative witness to God's love for the world. Partnership assumes that by joining hands within our congregations, and between our congregations and others who share a common vision, we are better able to accomplish God's work. This is the connectional church.

The partnership policy sets out five principles which apply in our congregations and in our connectional church:

1. Giving thanks and praise to God for all gifts of grace and renewal.
2. Interdependence in which mutual aid comes to all.
3. Recognition and respect for all partners.
4. Open dialogue where Scripture is the base for challenge and local initiative is respected.
5. Sharing all types of resources, human, financial and spiritual.

This fall, as your congregation's leadership prepares your 2018 annual operating budget, please ask what God is calling you to share through Presbyterian Partnership Giving, as a percent of your operating budget. As we read in the passage from I Corinthians there's no specific amount which Paul suggests members of the church in Corinth set aside for the connectional church of that time, which was headquartered in Jerusalem. His instruction is to "put aside whatever extra" there is every week for sharing with the brothers and sisters in distant lands. God expects us to give generously, and to give regularly. Paul implies there's always something extra. That's the way it is with us. We live in a world of abundance, blessed with more than we can use ourselves.

Our partnership giving goal is the biblical tithe of 10 percent. For those not now giving to the connectional church, starting at 2 or 3 percent is a significant way to begin being part of Presbyterian Partnership Giving. In addition, please

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consider being one of the churches which invests a bit in preparing the next generation of pastors by budgeting a gift to the Theological Education Fund which goes to the denomination's seminaries.

Being Presbyterian is linking the local congregation with others in a presbytery, linking presbyteries through synods and general assemblies to wrestle with issues of ministry and mission. These links are the way we do mission, accomplishing that which none of us or our congregations could imagine doing by ourselves.

Cascades' Vision for 2018

The mission of the Presbytery of the Cascades is to serve God by nurturing, supporting and celebrating our common ministries.

In September 2017, we called the Rev. Brian Heron as Presbyter for Vision and Mission, and this winter expect to call an Advocate for Congregations and Clergy. Filling these staff positions ends a transition launched over three years ago, and begins the execution of a vision reaffirmed by Presbytery in June 2015.

Cascades' focuses for mission:

- **We will encourage and support congregations to grow in their particular ministries.**
- **We will support and care for those in leadership.**
- **We will develop supportive relationships within the presbytery and with other sisters and brothers in Christ.**
- **We will inspire, equip and connect churches for mission and ministry**

How Cascades Supports your congregation

Anticipated giving to General Assembly for ministry in the United States and mission around the world is 25 percent of our Presbyterian Partnership Giving, or \$155,000. A grant of \$25,000 goes to the Synod of the Pacific for regional program work. Support for our Warm Springs mission church and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon totals \$32,000. The remainder of our program fund goes to programs and ministries including about \$590,000 for personnel costs of the elected and appointed staff; they support all our ministries and services.

A significant portion of our program fund activities are paid with grants (including allocations from the PCUSA special offerings taken every year) and user fees. These include:

Direct assistance – Barnabas Grants for small capital projects; Bisbee Fund community mission grants; itineration of mission co-workers.

Clergy and staff support – Christian educator training; Lectionary Retreat; new pastor orientation.

Ministries – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance training; Eco Justice education; Older Adult Ministries; Peacemaking and Hunger awareness; Self Development of People projects for economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people; Youth Ministry Team; New Ministries team (1001 Worshiping Communities) support of new ministries.

To learn more about this support, and how it might assist your congregation in a local mission project, please call the presbytery office at (503) 227-5486 or (800) 495-4114 from outside the Portland metropolitan area.

Ways Your Congregation Can Give

Cascades Presbytery provides the convenience of sending a single check, using a remittance form that lets your church financial secretary indicate designations. Here's the full list of opportunities to share God's abundance:

1. Presbyterian Partnership Giving (Basic Mission Support)

These gifts support adopted budgets of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly from overseas missions to programs in our own budget. This undesignated giving is the main support for Presbyterian programs and personnel, from work in our own Presbytery to world-wide mission work.

2. Per Capita Apportionment

This per-member apportionment is the way we share costs of administrative, legislative and judicial functions. Services benefit congregations equally. Per Capita expenses are separate from the Presbytery program and staff expenses supported through Presbyterian Partnership Giving. The proposed 2018 Presbytery administrative per capita budget totals \$490,076.

The proposed Presbytery administration budget is balanced by a 34-cent increase in per capita to \$19.05. General Assembly per capita is \$7.73, and Synod per capita is \$5.22. The total recommended per capita, going to Presbytery in November for its approval, is \$32.00.

Per capita is billed to churches based on the membership reported to General Assembly in the preceding year. The formula for determining the amount due is: Number of members reported multiplied by the current rate equals total due. The goal of Cascades Presbytery is full per capita pay-up by January 31. However, allowance is made for sessions to request permission to pay over an 8½ month period with the understanding that payment must be made in full by

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September 15. The Presbytery is obliged to collect Synod and General Assembly per capita and pay the amounts requested whether or not it receives per capita from congregations.

3. Directed Mission Support and Extra Commitment

Directed mission support lets you designate gifts within adopted budgets of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Funds can be designated to specific line items (such as a particular missionary) up to the total approved budget. Individuals and congregations may also give beyond the budget, a gift known as extra commitment that expands the ministry.

4. Theological Education Fund [TEF]

Support for our Presbyterian seminaries comes from local churches contributing to the Theological Education Fund. The goal is 1% of your congregation's operating budget. TEF is the only denomination-dedicated source for our 11 seminaries that are educating the next generation of ministers and Christian educators.

5. Special Offerings

We have four church-wide offerings each year. *One Great Hour of Sharing* (during Lent) goes to emergency relief, hunger work and Self-Development of People. The *Pentecost Offering* aids youth ministries and children at risk, with 40% of the offering dedicated to youth and children's missions in your local community. The *Peace & Global Witness Offering* (World Communion Sunday in October) is dedicated to peace and justice ministries with 25% allocated at the local congregation, 25% to the Presbytery (in support of our ministries of peace and reconciliation) and the balance to peacemaking work around the world. The *Christmas Joy Offering* in December supports minority colleges and schools and supplements pensions of retired pastors.

Provide for the Long-Term Through Cascades Endowment Fund

Created in 2003, the Cascades Endowment Fund is a way to support future Presbytery expenditures. The Fund welcomes gifts from individuals and congregations who believe in Presbytery's long-term goals and visions. For information on how to donate to the Fund, or to get assistance in setting up an endowment for your congregation, call the office at (503) 227-5486 or (800) 495-4114.

One Stop Giving Made Easy

Each year your session adopts a budget, including consideration of what God is calling you to give to Presbyterian Partnership Giving. We'll mail a pledge form to your clerk of session in November, and post a copy on the Cascades website. The goal is a tithe of your total operating budget.

To sharpen actual spending for the upcoming year from the giving estimates which the Presbytery budgets each November, we ask congregations to mail in the pledge form so it arrives by January 31, 2018. The mailing address is:

Presbytery of the Cascades
0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite D
Portland, OR 97239-4272

What percentage of your congregation's operating budget is God calling you to share as Presbyterian Partnership Giving? Our challenge is the biblical tithe, 10 percent of your operating budget. Many congregations give more.



Leaders of the Warm Springs congregation celebrate in June at the retirement of the Rev. Rick Ribeiro (right), their pastor for two decades

We all give in celebration of gratitude for the abundance God shares with us. We also wrestle with competing demands. Presbyterian Partnership Giving is your link to sister congregations in Cascades Presbytery which covers 65,000 square miles. It is your link to ministry in the Synod of the Pacific. It is your link to the national work of Presbyterian Church (USA) and mission work carried out around the world.

Our request for 2018 is that you and your session prayerfully consider what is the right percentage for this day and this time in the life of your church.

Thank you for being Presbyterian!

