

Presbytery of the Cascades

Share the joy of mission

Presbyterian Partnership Giving for 2019



Debbie and Richard Welch, in their fourth year in Guatemala, supported by our gifts through Presbyterian Partnership Giving. See the back page for more from this couple who left their home church in Spokane for a ministry with the children of Guatemala.

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." - 2 Corinthians 8:12-15 (NIV)



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 means 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 has five principles. They 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 2019 annual operating budget, please ask what God is calling you to share through Presbyterian Partnership Giving, as a percent of your operating budget. Paul tells us, in the passage from 2 Corinthians that any gift willingly given to build God's Kingdom is acceptable. The goal, he says is "that there might be equality." Your plenty supplies what others need, and other's plenty supplies what you need.

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 consider being one of the churches which invest 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 2019

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

During the past year we called the Rev. Brian Heron as Presbyter for Vision and Mission and the Rev. Clark Scalera as Advocate for Clergy and Congregations. With those two positions filled we've put the major pieces in place to provide a structure supportive of our congregations and their leaders and invites us into a compelling future. In 2019 we anticipate hiring a permanent communications coordinator, contracting with consultants for congregational discernment and vitality, and taking the initial steps toward a comprehensive, future-oriented and mission-minded new vision for the presbytery.

Brian has nearly finished visiting all the congregations in the presbytery, listening for signs of emerging opportunities to live into the vision that's under construction. Congregations are discovering ministry opportunities in their communities. Clark is discerning ways to make the Commission on Ministry more responsive to the needs of congregations today. Fresh possibilities for the presbytery are in sight!

This year, both the General Assembly and Cascades Presbytery considered increases to the per capita portion of the 2019 budget to maintain ecclesiastical services at current levels. In recent years, our program budget has been partly funded from reserves. Leadership at both GA and Presbytery are committed to determining long-term financial sustainability. In Cascades, you'll be asked to be part of that study. In the meantime, we ask you to prayerfully continue supporting presbytery with the recommended per capita increase and increased Presbyterian Partnership Giving while we negotiate our way into healthier financial models.

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 \$143,750. 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 \$34,000. The remainder of our program fund goes to programs and ministries including about \$450,000 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; small church grants for vitality and renewal projects; long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound to poverty; and technology grants for congregations. For more information go to the Presbytery website, click on documents, then grants.

Clergy and staff support – Christian educator training; Lectionary Seminar; 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 communities. This undesignated giving is the main support for Presbyterian programs and personnel from 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 2019 Presbytery administrative per capita budget totals \$503,032. The proposed Presbytery administration budget is balanced by a \$2.28 increase in per capita to \$21.33. General Assembly per capita is increased \$1.22 to \$8.95. Synod per capita remains at \$5.22. The total recommended per capita, going to Presbytery in November for its approval, is \$35.50.

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: Members reported times 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 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 percent of your congregation's operating budget. TEF is the only denomination-dedicated source for our 11 seminaries that educate 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 percent 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 percent allocated at the local congregation, 25 percent 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.

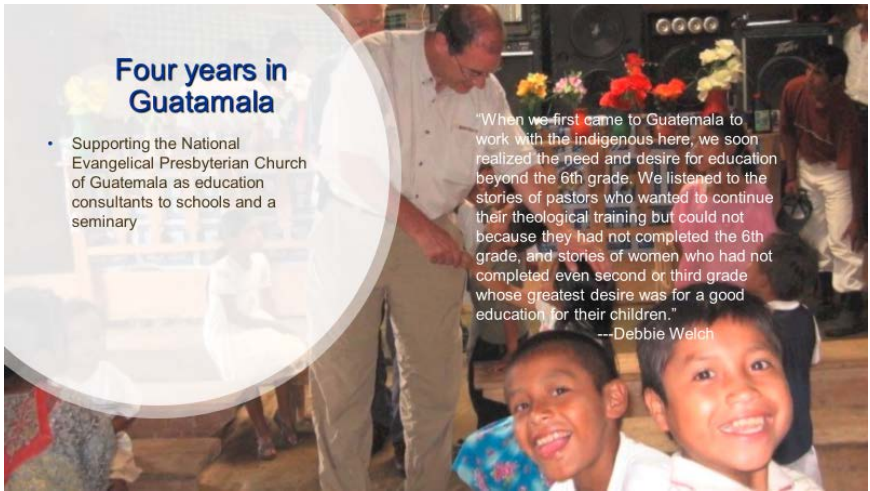
To sharpen actual spending for the upcoming year from the giving estimates which the Presbytery budgets each November, we ask congregations to mail in the pledge form so it arrives by January 31, 2019. The mailing address is:

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.



We 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 2019 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!

