

# How did your pastor come to be a pastor?



There are many paths today for becoming a pastor in the PC(USA). Some are fresh out of seminary, having completed a series of professional examinations administered by the Office of the General Assembly and an extended preparation process with their presbyteries. Others are ruling elders trained and commissioned by their local presbyteries in specific pastoral ministry functions. Still others were ministers in other denominations but have been led by the Spirit into ministry with the PC(USA).

Although every pastor's story is unique, all those who serve PC(USA) congregations have been reviewed and examined as to their gifts with a view toward ministry with that particular congregation. Per capita funding enables the Office of the General Assembly to train and support presbyteries in applying our national standards for all these paths to ministry. It makes it possible for PC(USA) congregations—including yours—to have gifted and prepared pastoral leaders.



**Timothy B. Cargal**  
*Ministry Preparation  
and Support*

## Per Capita

Per capita is an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106), and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA). In 2020, the General Assembly portion of per capita is \$8.95.



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