



# Hunger Action Congregation Covenant

*(This printable version of the application is for church records and includes hyperlinks to learn more about listed activities.)*

The Hunger Action Congregation process celebrates the faithful work of Presbyterians around the country who are responding to the biblical call to help alleviate hunger and poverty and working to eliminate their causes. Through stories and encouragement, we wish to be mutually inspired to pursue broader and more justice-oriented ministries.

Your church can be a covenanting **Hunger Action Congregation** if you are active in at least one of the six areas: Hunger Alleviation, Development Assistance, Hunger Education, Lifestyle Integrity, Corporate & Public Policy Witness, Worship. Congregations that are doing an activity in *all six* areas can be *Certified* Hunger Action Congregations.

## ***As a Hunger Action Congregation, you will:***

- Receive an acknowledgment from PHP welcoming you as a Hunger Action Congregation (HAC). Certified HACs (those active in all 6 areas) will also receive a printable certificate.
- Be recognized on the PHP web page.
- Receive periodic communications from PHP with updates, opportunities and/or stories from other congregations.
- Be invited to connect with other HACs through social media, online or in-person.

## ***How to Become a Hunger Action Congregation***

***Step 1: Form a Hunger Action Team*** (if you don't already have a similar team or committee to steward this work.) Gather church members – including children and youth – who are passionate about addressing hunger, poverty and related injustices, and meet periodically to assess and grow the church's practices in this area.

***Step 2: Gather your congregation's information.*** Review this Word version of the covenant, and fill it out. Please keep this Word version of the application for your own records.

***Step 3: Covenant to become a Hunger Action Congregation.*** Enter the information from your Word document (cut-and-paste) into the online covenant form at [bit.ly/hungeractionform](http://bit.ly/hungeractionform). The online form is the official application that PHP receives.

***INSTRUCTIONS: Fill out this Word version of the application so you will have a record of your covenant; then fill out the Covenant Form online at [bit.ly/hungeractionform](http://bit.ly/hungeractionform). You can copy and paste from this document. Feel free to delete these instructions when completed.***

# Hunger Action Congregation Covenant

**As disciples of a loving God who inspires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, we commit to faithful action to end hunger and poverty and address their root causes.**

\* This document is available with hyperlinks at [pcusa.org/hac](http://pcusa.org/hac).

Check all activities you are currently doing.

## 1. Hunger Alleviation

Providing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions

- Raise funds to end hunger around the world; give to the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), to [Cents-Ability](#), or other.
- Support a feeding program with volunteers and/or financial support, or run one yourself. [[Start/operate a soup kitchen](#) | [Find a food pantry](#) | Meals on Wheels | [Backpack Program](#)]
- Host or support (financial and/or volunteer) a [Summer Food Service Program](#).
- Start or participate in a [Community Garden or host a CSA](#) (Community Supported Agriculture).
- [Partner with another church](#) in your area to support their hunger ministry.
- Other (briefly describe below)

Details:

## 2. Development assistance

Addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development

- Support the [Presbyterian Hunger Fund](#), which provides grants to organizations in the United States and around the world doing this work.
- Support a development and/or training initiative overseas that builds local power, equity and long-term prosperity.
- Become a [Jubilee Congregation](#) and work for economic justice locally and globally.
- Run a shelter for the unhoused, or support one with volunteers and/or financial support.
- Join or create a local food policy council.
- Support an existing [cooperative grocery](#) or get one going in your community.
- Organize a job training program, or support one with volunteers and/or financial support.
- Other (briefly describe below)

Details:

### 3. Hunger Education

Learning about systemic causes of hunger, including racial, gender and economic injustices

- Use the [Just Eating? Practicing Your Faith at the Table curriculum](#) (adult or middle school version, or both. Also available: Spanish, Latin American, and African American Congregational versions.)
- Invite someone from a local anti-hunger or anti-poverty program, particularly a person who is directly impacted, to speak at a study session or during worship.
- Host a [Hunger Banquet](#), Simple Meal, or Local Foods Potluck
- Christian education, such as a Bible study or topical seminar.
- Do a book study. [See list of recommended books at <http://bit.ly/hungerbooks>.]
- Show a film or film series on hunger, poverty or injustice, and follow with discussion; contact [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org) if you need ideas.
- Go on a Presbyterian Hunger Program reflection-action trip.
- Participate in [World Food Day / Food Week of Action](#) or participate in or organize other hunger root cause events.
- Volunteer (*See opportunities for short-term service, internships, and mission work trips on the [OGHS Engagement Map](#)*).
- Join with another congregation in a hunger-related mission work experience.
- Participate in listening projects and dialogue about the current and historical context of race and privilege, learning and practicing sensitivity about power dynamics and these issues.
- Send representatives to [Ecumenical Advocacy Weekend](#) in Washington, D.C. and have a report-back event or church newsletter article about it.
- Other (briefly describe below)

Details:

### 4. Lifestyle Integrity

Adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God's creation

- Become an [Earth Care Congregation](#).
- Join the [Presbyterian Coffee Project](#) and offer fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more.
- Do another [Fair Trade](#) activity (describe below)
- Host a fair trade/alternative market. Contact [Jessica.Maudlin@pcusa.org](mailto:Jessica.Maudlin@pcusa.org).
- Use [Eco-Palms](#) on Palm Sunday.
- Use pitchers of water or other environmentally-friendly options at all church events rather than bottled water.
- Recycle.
- Study lifestyle issues and have individuals take actions in their own lives. [Visit Enough for Everyone's [Just Living](#) page for ideas and resources; also, the *Lent 4.5* curriculum is available from PHP; contact [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org) for information.]
- Other (briefly describe below)

Details:

## 5. Corporate and Public Policy Witness

Advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation

- Do an [Offering of Letters](#) on the Bread for the World priority for the year.
- Advocate for more livable wages.
- Call on Wendy's to join the [Fair Food Program](#).
- Ask Congress to raise the minimum wage.
- Advocate for just and sustainable food systems.
- Learn about seeds, GMOs and food sovereignty, and ask food companies to support mandatory FDA labeling of GMOs.
- Advocate for an end to hunger and its causes by [contacting Congress](#) through the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (see [advocacy guide](#)).
- Visit elected officials and/or their staff.
- Other (briefly describe below)

Details:

## 6. Worship

Incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship

Focus on the biblical and theological grounding for hunger and poverty work, and incorporate these into worship through:

- Sermons on hunger, poverty and injustice
- Prayers, litanies, minutes for mission on hunger
- Music and hymns on these topics
- Video, skits and other activities during worship
- Other (briefly describe below)

Details:

### Future action(s) you are considering:

**Please share a STORY** about a hunger ministry or particular action! It can be a few sentences or a long story. Or share the URL (web link) to a recent article about your hunger response work from a newspaper, blog or other publication. Also, we would appreciate receiving at least one photo (email to [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org) with photo credits and captions) to illustrate the story. We may share the story and photos on social media and blogs.

### We would like more information about...

Contact [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org) with questions, ideas or comments. \* *The covenant form should be filled out online at [bit.ly/hungeractionform](http://bit.ly/hungeractionform).*