



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

MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Igniting A Movement: Engaged in God's Mission

Together let us be carried by
the strong wind of the Holy Spirit,
proclaiming the gracious love of
Jesus Christ, who redeems us for
community with God, with one
another, and with all creatures.

**JOIN US IN MEETING
JESUS CHRIST IN
GOD'S MISSION.**



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DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST AND COLLEAGUES IN MINISTRY,

The church in every age and in every place, compelled by the words of Scripture, responds to a world in need. We know that your congregation is engaged with others to provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, a welcome for the refugee, a safe space for the victims of violence, a new life for those incarcerated and so much more. Thank you for your ministry.

“Becoming a Matthew 25 Church” was affirmed by the commissioners of the 223rd General Assembly (2018). With the experiences of that assembly fresh in our minds, hearts and spirits, we continue to reflect and act on the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46.

We are called to dismantle systems to eradicate poverty and racism, and create vital congregations. Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ and together we believe that God calls us to act boldly and compassionately so that faith comes alive and the world wakes up to new possibilities.

WE SEEK ...

To be the church that our faith demands.

Your Per Capita provides the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

To respond where needed most.

Your unrestricted, shared mission gift makes mission possible as it is used for important, emerging and innovative ministries. These funds provide flexibility to be responsive to congregations' needs.

To create a church where the love, justice and mercy of Christ is evident.

Your gifts to our four Special Offerings unite us to move outside the doors of the church to take faith-based action on shared concerns, and to walk alongside the vulnerable to whom we have been called.

As Presbyterians we value our connectional relationships. Every person's gift and every congregation's gift builds up the whole body. At the national level, we commit ourselves to providing resources that educate, inspire, and encourage ministries at the core of our life together.

Together — we act, witness and proclaim the love of God and grace of Jesus Christ.

As you prayerfully consider your congregation's commitment to mission and your financial commitments for 2020 we ask for your support for per capita, shared mission efforts and the four churchwide Special Offerings.

THANK YOU for your ministry, your prayers and your financial gifts.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Herbert Nelson, II".

Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk
of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (USA)



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Moffett".

Rev. Dr. Diane Givens-Moffett
President and
Executive Director
Presbyterian Mission Agency

To Be the Church that Our Faith Demands

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is “the tie that binds” — annual giving that unites the entire church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry.

ENTER INTO
THE JOY
OF YOUR
LORD

Matthew 25:23

Per capita provides the Office of the General Assembly with the financial means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God’s love through mission and ministry.

- Partnering with ecumenical bodies worldwide to promote Christian unity to extend the church’s work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do ourselves including the National Council of Churches of Christ, the World Council of Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches
- Witnessing on behalf of the church on social issues
- Providing opportunities to build relationships and strengthen bonds across communities
- Providing support in identifying and developing leadership for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Planning for General Assembly and other related gatherings
- Providing funding to bring commissioners to General Assembly
- Providing funding to bring presbytery and synod churches together for training and other events
- Administration of the Church Leadership Connection — a referral system for all Presbyterian church leaders
- Supporting Mid Council Ministries
- Introducing *Hands and Feet* — coordinating mission teams and other resources to make a lasting difference in the lives of host communities for the biennial General Assembly
- Publication and distribution of the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions
- Addressing issues of inclusion and representation across the church
- Offering advice and counsel to presbyteries and pastors who have immigration questions
- Support for a portion of the activities of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
- Maintaining judicial services
- Providing staffing, training and meeting costs for a wide-range of permanent and special General Assembly committees and commissions essential to the governance of the church
- Serving as the home for the Presbyterian Historical Society

To learn more, go to oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita



Per Capita

Presbyterian leaders march in St. Louis during the 223rd General Assembly (2018). Presbyterians took to the streets in an effort to end the cash bail system, which disproportionately impacts people experiencing poverty.

A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are seated in a circular room. The ceiling is a prominent feature, composed of numerous stained glass panels in various shapes and sizes, featuring intricate designs in colors like red, yellow, blue, and green. The people are looking towards the center of the room, suggesting they are attending a presentation or a performance. The lighting is warm and focused on the ceiling.

Per Capita

The origin story of Per Capita takes us back to the earliest Presbyterian General Assembly meetings in the US. In those days the Assembly met annually, always in Philadelphia. As the church expanded into far-off places like Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri, attendance at the Assembly became prohibitively expensive to frontier commissioners.

So in 1806 the Assembly began development of a “Commissioner Travel Expense Fund” which over the years came to be known as per capita. Today nearly all the expense of a General Assembly is paid by per capita with nearly half of that paying for the travel, housing and feeding of the 800-900 commissioners and advisory delegates who attend.

What is an Assembly? It is the one place where the whole church gathers. Commissioners and youth from every presbytery are in attendance.

Representative students from the seminaries, ecumenical partners from all over the world and mission co-workers make up a significant number of advisory delegates. Thousands more gather as observers or supporters.

They are there first of all to Worship, and also to do business. An idea which may have begun at a local church’s Session meeting passes through presbyteries to become Assembly business as overtures. There are Moderators to elect and mission initiatives to form at Assemblies. It is also the place where the larger church can adopt statements which speak to the

church and sometimes to those outside the church about issues of theology, justice and peacemaking.

At an Assembly everyone’s voice is valued, every part of the church is brought into the light of the Spirit and together the people seek to discern the will of Christ.

When you read stories of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance out in the field or pick up a new *Glory to God* hymnal, you are engaging in the work of an Assembly. When pastors are trained and ruling elders study the *Book of Order*, they are resourced by the work of an Assembly. When a mission co-worker enters a new field or a Young Adult Volunteer holds the hand of a hungry child, they are continuing the work of an Assembly.



THIS IS THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THIS IS
YOUR PER CAPITA
AT WORK.

Igniting Innovative and Essential Ministry

SHARED MISSION SUPPORT

Each level of the Church; congregation, mid council, and Mission Agency have unique opportunities to live out the call of Christ. Gifts to Shared Mission, given without restrictions, grow your congregation's impact, providing the essential support and flexibility for mid councils and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to engage in ministries that partner in God's mission.



A New Worshipping Community primarily gathering people in the service industry gathers for a meal as part of their worship in Spokane, WA.

At the Mission Agency, these funds support and develop church leaders, create resources for worship and discipleship and the advocacy efforts that work alongside ministries responding to things like disaster and hunger. Because these gifts are fully flexible, Shared Mission Support allows support for all ministries, and innovation at every level of the Church to serve needs that arise suddenly, especially in addressing systemic poverty, structural racism, and congregational vitality.

With these gifts, your congregation's passion for mission is amplified so that the whole world wakes up to new possibilities founded in Jesus Christ.

WHATEVER
YOU DID
FOR ONE OF
THE LEAST OF THESE
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS OF MINE,
YOU DID
FOR ME.

Matthew 25:40

To learn more, go to presbyterianmission.org/sharedmission



PHOTO: INSIDE OUT



PHOTO: PASCAL DEBRUNNER

Your Shared Mission Giving at work:

During the 223rd General Assembly (2018), a two-year emphasis was placed on Mental Health. The Assembly called on the whole Church to respond to the need for mental health ministries. Because of the generous gifts to unrestricted, shared-mission support, the Presbyterian Mission Agency was poised to respond. A ministry office and a grant program have now been established to support congregations and mid-councils in developing mental health ministries. “*Comfort Ye My People*” a policy statement made at the 218th General Assembly (2008) is being updated and a church-wide study will also go out in the Fall of 2019 to help the Church better understand the scope of the mental health issues across the denomination and the resources available to help address the need. The Mission Agency is only able to pursue this vital ministry because of the unrestricted gifts of Presbyterian mid-councils, congregations, and individuals.

This new ministry is just one way the Mission Agency is able to help the denomination answer the call to become a Matthew 25 church at the congregational, mid council, and national levels. Gifts to shared mission support are essential in developing leadership for the whole church, resourcing the worship life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and undergirding the ministry of mission co-workers serving beyond the United States, to name just a few. Through its four ministry areas; Racial Equity and Women’s Intercultural Ministries, World Mission, Compassion, Peace, and Justice, and Theology, Formation, and Evangelism, the Mission Agency pursues a Matthew 25 vision of:

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

To learn more, go to presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew25



PHOTOS: PRISCILLA DU PREEZ

To Create a Church Where the Love, Justice and Mercy of Christ is Evident

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

I WAS HUNGRY
AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD.

I WAS THIRSTY
AND YOU GAVE ME
SOMETHING TO DRINK.

I WAS A STRANGER
AND YOU WELCOMED ME.

I WAS NAKED AND
YOU GAVE ME CLOTHING.

I WAS SICK AND
YOU TOOK CARE OF ME.

I WAS IN PRISON
AND YOU VISITED ME.

Matthew 25:31-46

The four churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the church to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns.

The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

Through Special Offering gifts, we unite in the mission of sharing God's love, peace, and generosity with those in greatest need around the nation and around the world.

When we all do a little.... It adds up to a lot.





BECOME A FOUR FOR FOUR CONGREGATION BY...

receiving all four of the Special Offerings mandated by the General Assembly:

- ✧ One Great Hour of Sharing
- ✧ Pentecost
- ✧ Peace & Global Witness
- ✧ Christmas Joy

A Four for Four congregation declares its commitment to respond to causes that Presbyterians care deeply about and touch every stage of life. By participating in each

Offering, Presbyterians share God's grace and endless love, around the corner and around the world.

To learn more and see a map showing all the Four for Four congregations nationwide, go to specialofferings.pcusa.org/4for4

To update your congregation's Four for Four status, contact us at special.offerings@pcusa.org.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Season of Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

REBUILDING
HOPE

—

PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

—

32%

Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

GROWING FOOD
SECURITY

—

PRESBYTERIAN
HUNGER PROGRAM

—

36%

Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

PARTNERING
IN PROGRESS

—

SELF DEVELOPMENT
OF PEOPLE

—

32%

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Soul Fire Farm, a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Upstate New York, raises and sells organically grown vegetables and eggs and then sets prices based on the customers' ability to pay. The lack of nutritious food is experienced by many of our sisters and brothers at alarming rates.

As people of faith, we can move toward a more just and sustainable food system in which people of color gain access to the land, credit, and training necessary for successful farming. With One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, Presbyterians unite in support of securing healthy food systems for all.

To learn more, go to specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs



While a Young Adult Volunteer, Cherokee Adams sensed that the Holy Spirit was shaping her. “It was kind of like the Pentecost story,” she explains. “The Holy Spirit took me and changed me in ways that I wasn’t expecting.” Many Young Adult Volunteers tell us that they come away from the experience with a new realization of what their faith truly means.

“Thanks to these gifts, young people like me can be shaped and changed into better, more socially aware individuals and be affected by the places we serve and the people we meet.”

The Pentecost Offering opens the doors to children, youth, and young adults so that they grow in the patterns of faith meant to last a lifetime.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PENTECOST OFFERING

Season of Pentecost

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

SUPPORTING YOUTH IN YOUR OWN CHURCH

—
40%

The majority of this offering stays with individual congregations to develop and support programs for young people in their own church and community.

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS

—
25%

Young Adult Volunteers serve in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

GUIDING YOUTH

—
25%

Supporting ministries that inspire and guide youth as they grow and walk with Christ.

ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

—
10%

Providing advocacy to protect and education that nurtures our children and youth.

To learn more, go to specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

World Communion Sunday

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries.

RESPONDING
TO CONFLICT IN
YOUR COMMUNITY

—
25%

Participating congregations retain the portion of the Offering to support peacemaking and reconciliation in their own community.

CONNECTING
MID COUNCILS
FOR PEACE MAKING

—
25%

Linking congregations in ministries throughout presbyteries and synods.

ADVOCATING
FOR CHRIST'S PEACE
AND JUSTICE

—
50%

Actively working for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative initiatives of education and Christian witness.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



Today Princeton Abaraoha is pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Midlothian, Texas — but as a child he was forced to serve as a soldier for two and a half years during the Nigerian Civil War. His wartime experience wounded more than his body; it left him angry and rebellious. However, the peace of Christ worked in his life as he confessed his Christian faith for the first time. “My mom said God changed a heart of stone to a heart of flesh,” Princeton says.

Princeton speaks from the heart when he says using child soldiers is “an evil that we need to exterminate, and we need to call attention to any system that supports this evil.” Thanks to your gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, Presbyterians across the country support the work to end the forced conscription of child soldiers as well as anti-trafficking work related to forced labor and sex trafficking.

To learn more, go to specialofferings.pcusa.org/peace-global



“It is wonderful that the church does not forget those who worked in Presbyterian ministries at home and abroad.”

*Rev. Ralph Hamburger (In Memoriam)
Pasadena, California*



“Being able to grow spiritually is one thing that really drew us to the Menaul School. I really do want to help people.”

*Lucianna Astorga
Albuquerque,
New Mexico*

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Season of Advent

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God’s gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us — retired, present and future — who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

SUPPORTING PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS

—
50%

Honoring the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need — whether it is a family emergency, a health care crisis or even assistance to pastors affected by natural disasters.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS

—
50%

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

To learn more, go to specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

If you have a cause that is close to your heart, you can find a way to help in the Giving Catalog.

Explore a wide variety of gifts that provide real and positive impact around the world—including aid for refugees, access to clean water and helping to end hunger.

Each gift pictured in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog exemplifies the work prayerfully carried out by ministries of the Presbyterian Mission. These ministries work in collaboration with Presbyterians, congregations, mid councils and church partners.

The purchase and distribution of animals, the building of wells to provide life-giving clean water to entire communities, funds to support urban farms, fishing equipment, heating fuel for refugees and many more options are among the many ways your gift is filling a basic human need, making an impact and provide hope to those here in our nation and around the globe.

Learn more at presbyteriangifts.org



PRESBYTERIAN
GIVING CATALOG

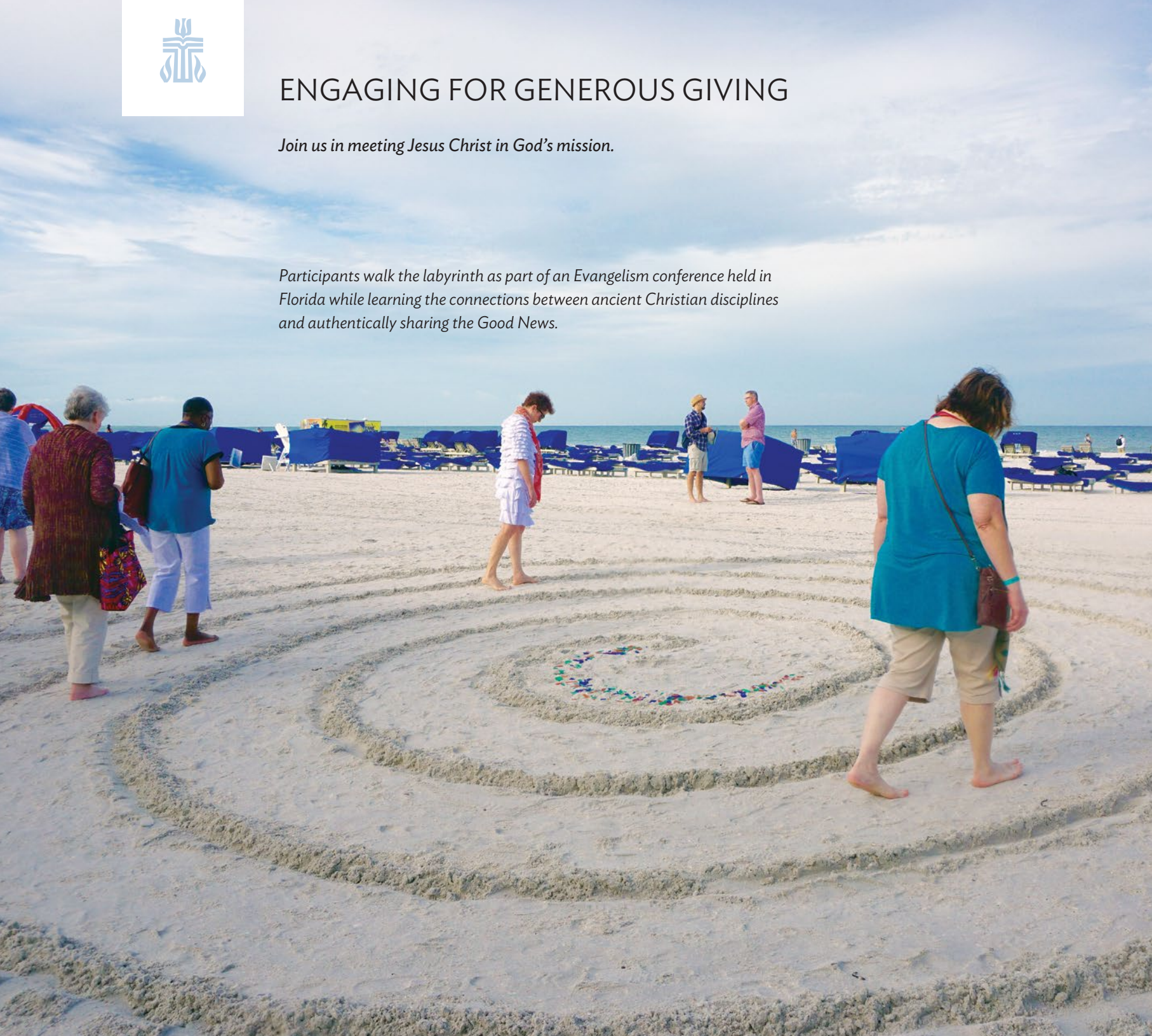
Worshippers of all ages at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, Delaware, embraced a “barnyard theme” to raise funds to purchase farm animals from the Giving Catalog. The experience was especially designed to engage children in the mission, and was warmly received by the entire congregation.



ENGAGING FOR GENEROUS GIVING

Join us in meeting Jesus Christ in God's mission.

Participants walk the labyrinth as part of an Evangelism conference held in Florida while learning the connections between ancient Christian disciplines and authentically sharing the Good News.



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, or any of our giving programs, please contact the Mission Engagement Advisor serving your region. Not sure what region you are in? Find a map and learn more about our team at presbyterianmission.org/who-we-are/gifts-financial-support/our-team.



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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission
MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

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The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, the corporation through which the Presbyterian Mission Agency operates for secular purposes, are qualified as charitable organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.