

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What is per capita?*

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*The official definition:*

“Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians”  
(GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

*In essence:* Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

### *Who pays per capita, and how much?*

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Congregations (through their sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member — per capita apportionment — to their presbyteries.

The annual per capita amount is a combined request from a congregation's presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year.

A presbytery's per capita rate depends on its geographical location and size, its mission needs, and the needs of the respective synod. The rate typically ranges from \$5 to \$30 annually per member.



## ***How is the General Assembly per capita rate set?***

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The General Assembly per capita rate is set every two years at the General Assembly meeting.

The rate is set by dividing the total GA-approved budget by the total PC(USA) church membership after adjusting for such things as investment income.

## ***What do GA per capita dollars provide?***

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Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

### ***Examples of what per capita dollars fund:***

- expenses for bringing commissioners and advisory delegates to a General Assembly, as well as holding the meeting
- the cost of bringing together presbytery and synod church leaders for training events, as well as those who serve on permanent GA committees
- tools to develop and administer ordination exams

- travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly
- the call system and other work that helps all Presbyterians discern their vocation
- information, advice, and counsel to presbyteries and pastors about immigration issues
- the Presbyterian Historical Society
- the production and distribution of the *Book of Order*, *The Book of Confessions* and other GA publications
- a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in the U.S. and worldwide

For additional information, go to:

[pcusa.org/percapita](http://pcusa.org/percapita)



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