

**CATEGORIES OF CHURCHWIDE MISSION GIVING IN THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

1) BASIC MISSION SUPPORT

(Your pledge to support approved denominational budgets) **THIS IS THE ANNUAL MISSION PLEDGE SOLICITED FROM CHURCHES.**

A. SHARED (Unified) MISSION SUPPORT

Foundational in the Presbyterian System – unrestricted gifts for the adopted budgets of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly.

B. DIRECTED (Selected) MISSION SUPPORT

Gifts with restrictions for use within adopted budgets of presbytery, synod and General Assembly.

2) CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL OFFERINGS

These special offerings are in addition to your basic mission support pledge above. There will be only four church-wide special offerings in any given calendar year. Resource materials are mailed directly to churches prior to these dates.

A. ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – Annual offering, usually during Lent, to support Disaster Relief, Self-Development of People, and Hunger Program.

B. CHRISTMAS/JOY OFFERING – Gifts are divided between the Board of Pensions for use in cases of special needs, and racial-ethnic schools and colleges in covenant with the Presbyterian Church for assistance in minority youth education.

C. PENTECOST OFFERING – Gifts support the denomination's vast array of youth and young adult programs. The offering is usually taken on Pentecost Sunday. 40% stays with the congregation to support ministries for children at risk, 60% is sent to the General Assembly to support child advocacy, youth and young adult ministry programs.

D. PEACEMAKING OFFERING – This offering is usually taken on World Communion Sunday (first Sunday in October). The offering is divided among the session (25% of offering), the presbytery (25%) & GA (50%). Each governing body makes the decision on how to spend the gifts within the context of peacemaking.

3) OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS

These special appeals are **in addition** to your basic mission support pledge above.

A) THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND (1% PLAN) – a unique special appeal approved by General Assembly supporting seminaries and the education of ministers.

B) EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF – A special appeal enabling persons to respond compassionately to emergency needs such as natural disasters.

C) HUNGER FUND – Funds support the Presbyterian Hunger Program and world hunger relief.

D) EXTRA COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES – Validated Mission Projects Outside the Judicatory Budgets – Provide a way for contributors to support mission not funded by adopted budgets. See ECO Book published by GA for a listing of projects.

BASIC MISSION SUPPORT

SHARED MISSION SUPPORT AND DIRECTED MISSION SUPPORT

- A) Basic Mission support is foundational to the Church wide Funding Plan. Any gift, whether shared or directed mission support, will be acknowledged as meeting mission support commitments. (credit against your pledge)
- B) The Presbytery will report all gifts to adopted budgets on a regular basis. The Presbytery will send a detailed written receipt for all contributions shortly after receiving your check, and quarterly statements are sent to Treasurers and summaries are reported to Presbytery.
- C) Shared Mission Support is divided by the presbytery approved percentages to support the approved budgets of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly.
- D) Directed Mission Support will be applied to designated budget items and may not exceed 80% of any such item.
- E) Should directed mission support reach the 80% level, the Presbytery must consult with the congregation regarding:
- 1) possible redirection of the gift to a different but related purpose
 - 2) redirection of the gift through other specific appeals to a validated project or purpose beyond the budget
 - 3) returning the gift to the church

RULES GOVERNING DIRECTED MISSION SUPPORT

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- 1) Designate only a portion of your congregation's **Basic Mission Support** to specific projects.
- 2) Select programs from a variety of geographic areas and functions so that you become familiar with the wide variety of the church's mission. Use your choices to educate your congregation about mission around the world. It also provides a direct contact with personnel serving as Missionaries of the PC (USA).
- 3) Vary your designation from time to time to provide opportunities for a wider interpretation of mission.

HOW TO:

- 1) Complete the Directed Mission Support pledge forms. Include all information, including telephone numbers in case we need to contact you. Remember, the only projects to be listed are those in the General Assembly budget. General Assembly provides an annual book with the detailed projects and amounts available. You may direct your support to any of these programs or outreach missions.
- 2) Designations from all churches will be accepted up to a maximum of 80% of the total annual commitment. This will allow for those churches who commit to shared giving to know that their dollars are supporting all the projects within the budget.
- 3) The dollar amount should be for the calendar year.
- 4) Always indicate alternate choices.
- 5) Send in your form to General Assembly for certification. If you wish to support a project that you supported last year, you need to get your forms in by February 15.
- 6) A copy of your pledge form will be returned to you. A copy will also be sent to the other two governing bodies.
- 7) Do not begin remitting funds designated to particular programs until you have received the certified copy of your pledge form from the governing body.
- 8) Send your gifts through the **Presbytery Office, your local receiving site**. All mission funds received are paid to their respective designations at the close of business each month. (*Also see Mission Funding Receipts Policy, and Role of the Presbytery as a Receiving Site.*)

MISSION FUNDING

EXTRA COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES GUIDELINES

EXTRA COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES are over and above your Basic Mission Support.

The money given for these projects is restricted for the specific cause that you choose. They are not to be used in substitution for Basic Mission Support.

The General Assembly publishes a book of Extra Commitment Opportunity projects for churches to choose. However, not all ECO projects are listed in the book. Please check with your Receiving Site or Gift Administration at General Assembly (1-888-728-7228 Ext. 5650) for a particular project number.

Once you have chosen a project, please be sure to complete the ECO Pledge Commitment Form to be assured that the project is still available. Use the address on the form for processing and do not send money for a project until it has been certified by Gift Administration.

MISSION FUNDING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

There are **FOUR SPECIAL OFFERINGS** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (EASTER/PALM SUNDAY) has been a part of the Presbyterian Church for over 50 years. Now, as it did 50 years ago, it offers an opportunity to share God's love with people in need. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our love for one another, we respond with gifts that help our brothers and sisters around the world find the hope for a better future.

Presbyterian gifts enable Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to respond to the immediate and long-term needs of God's people across the United States and around the world.

PENTECOST OFFERING (PENTECOST SUNDAY) is for *children, youth and young adults*. Using the funds received from the offering, we nurture the faith of Presbyterian young people and develop tomorrow's leaders. It supports the National and International Young Adult Volunteers and Interns, and, future leaders on college campuses throughout the United States. The funds make possible the advocating and caring for children at risk both in the US and in overseas mission areas. The congregation is encouraged to keep 40% of this offering and 60% is General Assembly's share to be divided for children at risk and youth and young adult ministries.

PEACEMAKING (WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY) is for peacemaking efforts of the church at every level and provides opportunities to witness to God's peace giving in the world. Each congregation is encouraged to keep 25% for its own peacemaking work. 25% is used at the Presbytery level and 50% is forwarded to General Assembly for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

CHRISTMAS JOY (ADVENT) is for Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and to fund the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions.

All offerings that are for the work in the Presbytery and General Assembly should be sent to your Receiving Site for processing. Your session must approve the collection of any of these offerings. Each offering has free interpretive materials that are sent to each church. Please use these materials to help educate and promote the 4 Special Offerings.

THE CHURCH MISSION PLEDGE

WHAT'S INCLUDED, WHAT'S NOT:

The pledge to the denomination's Program/Mission is needed to cover those items in the Program and Mission Budgets of the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. The pledge may be for shared (also called unified), or directed (also called selected or designated) giving. It supports the budgeted programs of each judicatory.

It does **NOT** support:

1. Per Capita
2. Special Offerings:
 - a. One Great Hour of Sharing
 - b. Pentecost
 - c. Peacemaking
 - d. Christmas/Joy
 - e. Hunger
 - f. Disaster Relief Programs, etc.
 - g. Theological Education
 - h. Meet You At The Table Campaign
3. Extra Commitment Opportunities

Note: Extra Commitment Opportunities are **in addition** to your Basic Mission Support pledge.