

December 10, 2007

To the Sessions of Albany Presbytery Churches,

As we look forward to 2008, the Stewardship & Mission Support Task Force (SMSTF) is thankful for your efforts in support of the cause of Mission in and through our presbytery. Presently we are on the way toward meeting the Mission Budget for Presbytery for 2007.

There are exciting things happening in Mission throughout Albany Presbytery. We have groups from a number of churches who have conducted Mission trips to the Gulf Coast and other areas around the world in need. A team from Presbytery visited the MAM Presbyterio in Guatemala during August and presented their story at the November Presbytery meeting. The Stewardship and Mission Support Task force along with many congregations and groups within our Presbytery hosted Susan Wright, PC(USA) Missionary for Mission Challenge 2007. There are countless other things happening all around and we will be telling you more about them as time goes by. None of these things would be possible without the generous support of your congregations and we thank you for your leadership in providing this support.

We are excited about the possibilities for 2008. The budget proposed for 2008 includes:

- Increased support for the important ministry of our College Chaplains at UAlbany, Sage, RPI & Union.
- Continued proactive work by the Committee on Ministry and the Commissioned Lay Pastor Task Force
- New Peace and Justice initiatives for education and action
- Increased support for Mission in cooperation with the MAM Presbyterio in Guatemala.
- A New Rural initiatives line to help support our rural congregations to do mission.
- Continued support of Hebron Camp under its new Ministry Plan
- Continued support of ministries in our cities.

Enclosed with this letter is a pledge form for you to declare your church's financial commitment to missions beyond your local congregation as well as a sample of interpretive materials to help you capture a sense of what God is doing through your support. We are asking that you prayerfully consider your commitment and, in order to help us with planning, return your pledge form to the Presbytery Office as soon as possible but no later than January 31st, 2008.

Thank you for time in answering this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,



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