

Ecclesiastical and Mission Budget Purpose and Definitions

The purpose(s) of the Ecclesiastical and Mission Budgets of Albany Presbytery are shaped by the Great Ends of the Church (G-1.0200)

The Great Ends of the Church are:

1. Proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; MISS
2. Shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; ECCL
3. Maintenance of divine worship; ECCL
4. Preservation of the truth; ECCL
5. Promotion of social righteousness; MISS
6. Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. MISS

Ecclesiastical expenses are those which relate to Great Ends #2, 3 & 4

All administrative costs of the Office of the General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Council, meetings, committee and task force meetings, including communications, legal services, and internal audit functions, are funded by the ecclesiastical budget, as well as, the presbytery's membership in ecumenical groups.

Mission expenses are those which relate to Great Ends #1, 5 & 6

The costs of projects and programs developed by Council, committees, and/or task forces, approved by the Presbytery, are funded by the mission budget.

Background notes:

Ecclesiastical & Mission Budgets

***What are our Guidelines for which budget supports various ministries and salaries?
It depends on what we deem to be Ecclesiastical, and what we deem to be Mission***

Our Ecclesiastical budget is supported by every congregation which is a member of Albany Presbytery, through a per capita offering. The descriptions of GA per capita and how it supports certain General Assembly functions are instructive as we determine what part of our ministry should be funded through our ecclesiastical budget and what part should be funded through our mission budget.

From GA Minutes, Part I, 1995

"Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies 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.

From the 2004 GA brochure on Per Capita:

"In order to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity . . ." (Book of Order, G-9.0404), per capita is the responsible way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian church community expressing the essential unity of the church. The payment of the per capita apportionment can be seen as a sign of healthy relationships within the church, giving tangible witness to the unity and wholeness promised to us in Jesus Christ.

It has been said that per capita apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us. It is the necessary linkage in our connectional system. Each presbytery is responsible for the timely payment of per capita for the current year (BO, G-9.0404d).

General Assembly Council

All administrative costs of the Office of the Executive Director, General Assembly Council (GAC), council meetings, committee and task force meetings, including communications, legal services, and internal audit functions, are funded by the per capita budget.

Ecumenical Relations

Another ecclesiastical expense that is part of the General Assembly per capita is our membership in various national and international ecumenical groups. In most of these, per capita covers the cost of participation in the organization rather than support for the programs of the organization. These ecumenical bodies include the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC), the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), the Caribbean and North American Area Churches (CANAAC), and the Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is involved in these ecumenical relationships so that we can consider, together with other Christians in this country and around the world, how to work for and display to the world the unity of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mission (from *Merriam Webster Dictionary*)

Main Entry: ¹mis-sion ☒

Function: *noun*

Pronunciation: 'mi-shin

Etymology: New Latin, Medieval Latin, & Latin; New Latin *mission-*, *missio* religious mission, from Medieval Latin, task assigned, from Latin, act of sending, from *mittere* to send

1 *obsolete*: the act or an instance of sending

2 a: a ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work