

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

MISSION and MINISTRY



The Presbytery of West Virginia lives out its mission statement every day:

The Presbytery of West Virginia is a baptized, covenant people called by God to reflect Christ's love through mission, ministry, and relationships.

CURRENT PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT:

2015-Per Capita is: 28.50

General Assembly \$ 7.02

Synod of the Trinity \$ 2.20

Presbytery of West Virginia \$ 19.28

Total 2015 Per Capita \$ 294.519

The 2015 apportionment is based on a church's membership as of December 31, 2013 as reported in the 2013 General Assembly Statistics.

A LOOK AT PER CAPITA

“The funding of mission similarly demonstrates the unity and interdependence of the church. The failure of any part of the church to participate in the stewardship of the mission of the whole church diminishes that unity and interdependence. All mission funding should enable the church to give effective witness in the world to God’s new creation in Jesus Christ, and should strengthen the church’s witness to the mission of God.” G.30106

HISTORY

Per capita payment began in 1755 as a means of equalizing the cost of travel of commissioners to meetings of General Assembly. The fund was raised by apportioning a fair share among the presbyteries according to their number. Over the years, presbyteries came to raise the apportionment by asking each congregation to pay according to the number of members.

Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian. Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA BASED ON?

Per capita apportionments for a given year are based on the memberships of the churches two years earlier. The 2015 apportionment is based on 2013 membership figures from the annual report to the General Assembly — the most recent figures available when budgets are adopted.

WHY PAY?

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).

For every General Mission dollar given the Presbytery recommends you use the following formula:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY	20%
SYNOD OF THE TRINITY	20%
PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA	60%

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

Romans 12:4-6a

The Administration Committee includes support for the General Presbyter, Associate Presbyters, Treasurer, Resource Center Director, Bluestone Camp Director and Office Administrator as well as office support.

76.88% \$614,530

The Bluestone Camp Committee offers a Christ centered community for all ages where worship, learning and play inspire participants. Bluestone hosts family camps, church retreats. Summer camp for youth provides accredited Christian camping experience.

0.44% \$ 3,500

The Ministry Committee helps congregations secure pastoral leadership...staffing for Small Church Ministries...provides ALP/CRE training to fill pulpits...congregational leaders during pastoral transitions, orientation for incoming pastors, visits with sessions on a triennial basis.

2.68% \$21,400

The Mission Committee helps congregations participate in the church's total mission through support of local, national and international mission projects. It also provides grant money for mission ventures, and supports the work of Older Adult Ministries and the Hunger Action Enabler.

6.82% \$54,550

The Nurture Committee creates a variety of workshops where members, leaders, teachers, and officers obtain ministry skills. The Youth Council develops youth as leaders and provides retreats for middle and high school youth. The Resource Center provides materials for congregational leaders and programs.

2.75% \$22,000

The Nominating and Representation Committees; the Trustees; and the Permanent Judicial Council are ecclesiastical committees which work to secure volunteer leadership for committees and assist with property matters. Expenses of the Leadership Team are included here.

0.33% \$2,600

The Stewardship Committee develops the budget and provides for use of Presbytery's financial resources in support of mission and program.

3.32% \$36 50

The Vocations Committee supports those considering and preparing for ordination as Teaching Elders, as well as the sessions of congregations of which they are members. It also provides a preparation program for those wishing to become Authorized Lay Preachers and Commissioned Ruling Elders.

2.80% \$22,400

The Relations Committee maintains the Presbytery's systems of communication with congregations, teaching and ruling elders, and members, with the help of Cluster Shepherds, and by means of newsletters, mass media, social media, video-conferences, written reports and telephone systems, etc.

1.63% \$13,000





West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy & Workcamps

“Before this week I never ran a power saw... never used a drill, never showered in sulfur water... never had to pop my ears because of the mountains...and never sang ‘Country Roads.’”

-From Diana’s journal, Orlando FL team in Hampden

Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center

“I know that Bluestone will always be like coming home. Bluestone seeks to hire the friendliest staff. They have easily the best summer camp cooking. The summer-camp experience is totally God-centered and really brings into focus life in Christ.”

-Kaitlyn Dyer



Presbytery of West Virginia Youth Council

"Youth Council is important to me because I help kids find live in God, Jesus and the people around them, and that makes me happy."

- Alex Cleland, Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church



Westminster Foundation

"The reason why I think D&E is such a great institution goes far beyond academics. I have always thought that it is crucial to possess balance in life, and I found balance by being guided in a beautiful spiritual journey with the help of our Chaplain. I was able to shape my faith and build a strong internal balance – I learned that love is the power that drives my life and it is the single, most important value that connects me with God."

- Agustín Ochoa

Youth Work Camps and Conferences

“The Raleigh Youth Mission trip was a great experience for me because it really opened my eyes to what others go through, and it encouraged me to try to do more in my own community.”

-Katelin Evans

“Raleigh youth mission was such a good experience. I learned a lot and made great new friends!”

-Sarah DeBolt



Jesus said, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”. Evangelist Tony Campolo put into words what I think that may look like: He said, “Sometimes those who operate and function as Evangelicals have the idea that the purpose of salvation is to get people saved so that when they die they can go to heaven. When I come to the Bible I read about a God who wants to save us, transform us, not so that we can go to heaven but so that through us he can express his love to people in this world. He saves us not for heaven but for this world, so that we can be agents of change in the world in which we live.” THAT’S IT!! “Agents of change in the world in which we live!” It’s not building a bigger church, it is building the Kingdom of God—a place of justice and righteousness for all of God’s people.

The Presbytery of West Virginia is a web of connective ministries that seek God’s kingdom such as Bluestone Camp and West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) that offer spiritual and practical mission experiences for adults and youth that tie us to people and churches across the state and beyond. The Presbytery supports Westminster Foundation in many of our state universities. The Presbytery helps to support food pantries and backpack programs in many communities. Mission goes beyond the borders of our state to Kenya and Nicaragua where we have built partnerships, and teams are called to mission in areas of disaster in our own state and country to bring a hand up. Education is a focus through the Festival of Faith and the Authorized Lay Preacher and Commissioned Ruling Elder Preparation Program that encourage and train leaders. Working together we are indeed agents of change in the world.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus now and forever more!



Joan Stewart
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Presbytery of WV

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