



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

# 2019 Annual Report



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MATTHEW 25

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*On the cover:  
The 2019 Presbyterian Youth  
Triennium brought together  
more than 4,000 youth for an  
ecumenical, high-energy worship  
experience to recognize their own  
faith and disciple-forming story  
with the theme, "Here's my Heart."  
Triennium is supported through  
gifts to the Pentecost Offering.*

**Sofía Lanzot** of San Juan, Puerto Rico, was one of the Energizer Team that started each of the big gatherings. (Photo by Rich Copley)



*More than 600 Durham CAN leaders met to ensure that county commissioners fulfilled their commitments to affordable housing. (Photo provided by Durham CAN)*

*As of Dec. 31, 2019,  
360 congregations and  
31 mid councils (representing  
4,757 congregations) have  
made the commitment to  
become Matthew 25 churches.  
By accepting the Matthew 25  
invitation, they are working  
to help our denomination  
become a more relevant  
presence in the world.*



**MATTHEW 25**

The Matthew 25 invitation was officially launched on April 1, 2019, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. There were already congregations that identified themselves as fulfilling Matthew 25. We seek to be a resource to them wherever they are on the journey and aim to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with those mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focuses:

-  **building congregational vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world;
-  **dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color;
-  **eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

By the end of 2019, over 80,000 people had engaged with the Matthew 25 invitation via social media platforms and over 78,000 visits to the website and news stories that lifted up Matthew 25. Our engagement rate with Matthew 25-related posts was more than twice the average industry standard for nonprofits.

Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth, is contagious. We are rejoicing at how this re-energized faith is uniting all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose.



*Members of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Mich., took an adult mission trip to Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize. (Photo by Robert Day)*



*Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly Co-Moderators, Ruling Elder **Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri** and the Rev. **Cindy Kohlmann**, led opening worship for the 2019 Moderators' Conference in the chapel of the Presbyterian Center headquarters in Louisville. (Photo by Rich Copley)*

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

*1 Peter 4:10*

## About the Presbyterian Mission Agency

For more than 200 years, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has responded to the call of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, demonstrating mutual love and service to God's people. Being Presbyterian means a secure hope in the grace of God in Jesus Christ, a hope that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, empowers us to live lives of service. Then and now, we embrace Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31–46 to actively engage in the world around us, serving those who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned and poor. We aim to help multiply a loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by centering our work on three areas of focus:


- **building congregational vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged in their community;
- **dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color;
- **eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies,

plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth. We are called to minister directly to people's immediate hurts and needs. We are also called to confront and challenge systems that perpetuate human misery. We participate in Christ's compassionate ministry through acts of witness and advocacy, through the collaboration with mid councils, congregations and other agencies and organizations committed to human welfare.

God calls us to serve one another using whatever gifts each of us has received. As you read through the many stories sharing the good news of God's liberating love, we hope that you will be inspired to use your gifts and engage in mission in your neighborhoods and communities around the world.

You can find out more by visiting [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org) or by following us on Facebook and Twitter.



*For over 30 years, the national offices of the PC(USA) has been in Louisville.*

# The Work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

**W**e celebrate the connectional and impactful work that together with mid councils, international partners and congregations has transformed lives through God's love, justice and grace.

Our ministry areas work to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty — all to unite Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose. May the stories you read on the following pages inspire you to make a commitment to radical and fearless discipleship. To learn more, please visit us online: [presbyterianmission.org](https://presbyterianmission.org)



*"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."*

*Colossians 3:12*

## Message from Diane Moffett and Joe Morrow



**Diane Moffett**  
President & Executive Director  
Presbyterian Mission Agency



**Joe Morrow**  
Board Chair  
Presbyterian Mission Agency

We marvel at the things God has done in and through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. As you read through the annual report, you will see stories of lives transformed and the love of Christ displayed through service and advocacy, action and worship. You will also see reports and numbers, but remember, behind every statistic and every graph is a story of grace. This is just the beginning of what God wants to do.

We took a bold step in 2019. In response to both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) transformed into a Church of action — where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth. We launched the Matthew 25 invitation, encouraging Presbyterians to encounter Jesus again through the story of Matthew's Gospel — to reaffirm our faith in his saving grace; remember his way of righteousness, justice and peace; and recommit ourselves to his mission in the world. The response was overwhelming! With energy and love, our congregations and mid councils locked arms to pursue ways to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.

Congregations and mid councils readily made the commitment to live out the words of Jesus by building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Innovation can be messy, but we started this process with prayer and we are continuing to bathe it in prayer. We ask you to join us and pray without ceasing for the Presbyterian Mission Agency and for the Matthew 25 invitation so congregations throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can put their words into action within their communities.

Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness to bringing hope, building faith, and changing lives in our denomination and across the globe. We love and appreciate all of you and are grateful to be on this journey together.

In Christ,



Diane and Joe



*Diane Moffett addressed PC(USA) staff about the Matthew 25 initiative in early 2019. (Photo by Jieun Kim Han)*



*The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis preached at Freeman Chapel in Hopkinsville, Ky., on the Real National Emergency bus tour for the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**. (Photo by Rich Copley)*

*How does God's love  
abide in anyone who has  
the world's goods and sees  
a brother or sister in need  
and yet refuses help?*

1 John 3:17

## Poverty

### **Poor People's Campaign — a moral movement**

Work begun by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. five decades ago is revived by **The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**. The movement, led by the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, tackles problems facing Americans — from poverty to systemic racism and militarism to ecological devastation. Real National Emergency bus tours highlight these issues by confronting riders with people directly impacted by them. "It helps us to understand the connections between all of these issues," said the Rev. Denise Anderson, director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Racial & Intercultural Justice ministry. The campaign incorporates efforts of Presbyterian Mission Agency offices, including Gender & Racial Justice.

### **Reaching out to a city in need**

The Boynton neighborhood in Southwest Detroit has been coined the most polluted ZIP code in Michigan. This is largely due to impacts of the neighboring Marathon Petroleum refinery, which has caused health problems, degraded the quality of life and caused scary situations, such as alarms and fireballs in the dead of night. Many of the neighborhood's residents desire to move out from under the refinery's toxic shadow, but they don't have the money to do so. In 2018, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) identified Marathon Petroleum as one of nine companies for focused engagement by the PC(USA)'s Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment. Last year, MRTI, supported by Faith-Based Investing and Corporate Engagement, began work with residents to open a dialogue with the company, set clear environmental expectations and improve living conditions.

### **Disaster relief knows no boundaries**

Several of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's ministries spent the past year addressing the famine and poverty crisis in war-torn Yemen — a challenging task in an Islamic nation with no Presbyterian presence. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance appreciated the opportunity to come alongside the Presbyterian Hunger Program to support this critical famine initiative because food sovereignty mitigates the impact of disaster and, conversely, disaster impacts the sustainability of vulnerable communities. Support to partner Generations Without Qat included \$23,000 in grants, fishing kits and training to almost 500 families. Support the work of PDA and PHP by giving to One Great Hour of Sharing.

### **Workshops that work**

"God's children should not be unable to be what God intended because of poverty," said Pat Osoinac of the PMA's Committee on the Self-Development of People. To help people flourish, SDOP recently added community engagement elements to its national committee meetings. They held grant workshops and other engagement programs at their national committee meeting in September in Atlanta. Attendees called the workshops "thought-provoking" and "out of the box." The ministry's mission lines up with the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 invitation to dismantle structural racism, eradicate systemic poverty and build congregational vitality. SDOP's work, supported by contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing, strives to help economically disadvantaged people improve by funding them directly. It's grant-giving from the grassroots up.



*Madison McKinney* represented the PC(USA) at the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. (Photo by Rich Copley)

*Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against and work against racism. Antiracist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

*“Facing Racism:  
A Vision of the Intercultural  
Community,” PC(USA) Churchwide  
Antiracism Policy*

## Racism

### Finding her place with faith

Madison McKinney, 20, spent years trying to figure out who she was, after being born to a pair of Presbyterian pastors in New Mexico, being raised in South Dakota and moving to Kansas. She has experienced racism: “I was always being told I wasn’t good enough,” she said. “And that’s when God would move.” She eventually found a balance between culture and her Christian faith, becoming more involved in the Church. In the summer of 2019, McKinney attended the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. McKinney, sponsored by the Native American Intercultural Congregational Support office of Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries, was the first Native American young woman to attend the commission as a representative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

### Black lives (still) matter

Do your research. Do not appropriate culture. Initiate conversations about the issues. That’s how the Rev. Shanea D. Leonard, associate for Gender & Racial Justice, says allies and the Church can combat racism and support the Black Lives Matter movement. The self-proclaimed “social justice faith abolitionist” preaches for a more unified nation and Church and says that white folks must do the work of realizing that there is a problem and then move toward educating one another. “That does not mean that anyone else’s life ceases to be equally as important,” Leonard said. The Black Lives Matter movement was started after the 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman in the execution of Trayvon Martin, 17, as an act of resilience of life and a defiance of the status quo of black lives not mattering at all.

*Staff from the PC(USA) marched with civic leaders to help bring awareness to the nation’s unfair practice of cash bail. (Photo by Tammy Warren)*





*Seminarians gather every year at Haley Farm in Tennessee for the **Seminarians of Color** conference. (Photo by Gregg Brekke/SixView Studios)*

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

*Acts 2:42–47*

## Congregational Vitality

### Adapting to remain relevant

The development of Baltimore's Inner Harbor forced Light Street Presbyterian Church to make a choice — evolve or perish. The gentrification caused membership to dwindle and exacted the closure of its soup kitchen. Light Street reinvented itself, becoming a 1001 New Worshipping Community, and nearly doubled in size. The change attracted worshipers from the now more affluent, secular transient community of young professionals. It also adapted its space, removing traditional elements such as pews and carpeting. Light Street's pastor, the Rev. Tim Hughes Williams, says transforming its sanctuary to one that's multipurpose has helped the church grow. While adapting, the church is trying to stay true to its justice ministries, even as its neighborhood becomes more affluent. The Presbyterian Mission Agency supported Light Street with a \$7,500 Seed Grant through Mission Program Grants, which are made available through Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries.

### Conference offers week of formation


Attendees of the annual Presbyterian Association of Musicians conference concur: It's an inspiration. Why? "I think the best answer is that it's the work of the Holy Spirit," said the Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, seminarian liaison in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of Theology and Worship, "and what the Spirit does with the talented leaders . . . who gather every year." The conference, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020, serves as a formative experience that guides seminarians as they plan and lead worship. Through a partnership with Presbyterian Mission's Financial Aid for Service, six seminary students received grants to attend the 2019 conference. "I'm so grateful for my Presbyterian Study Grant and for this Presbyterian engagement opportunity," said Kim Coyle, a student at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

### Creating a network

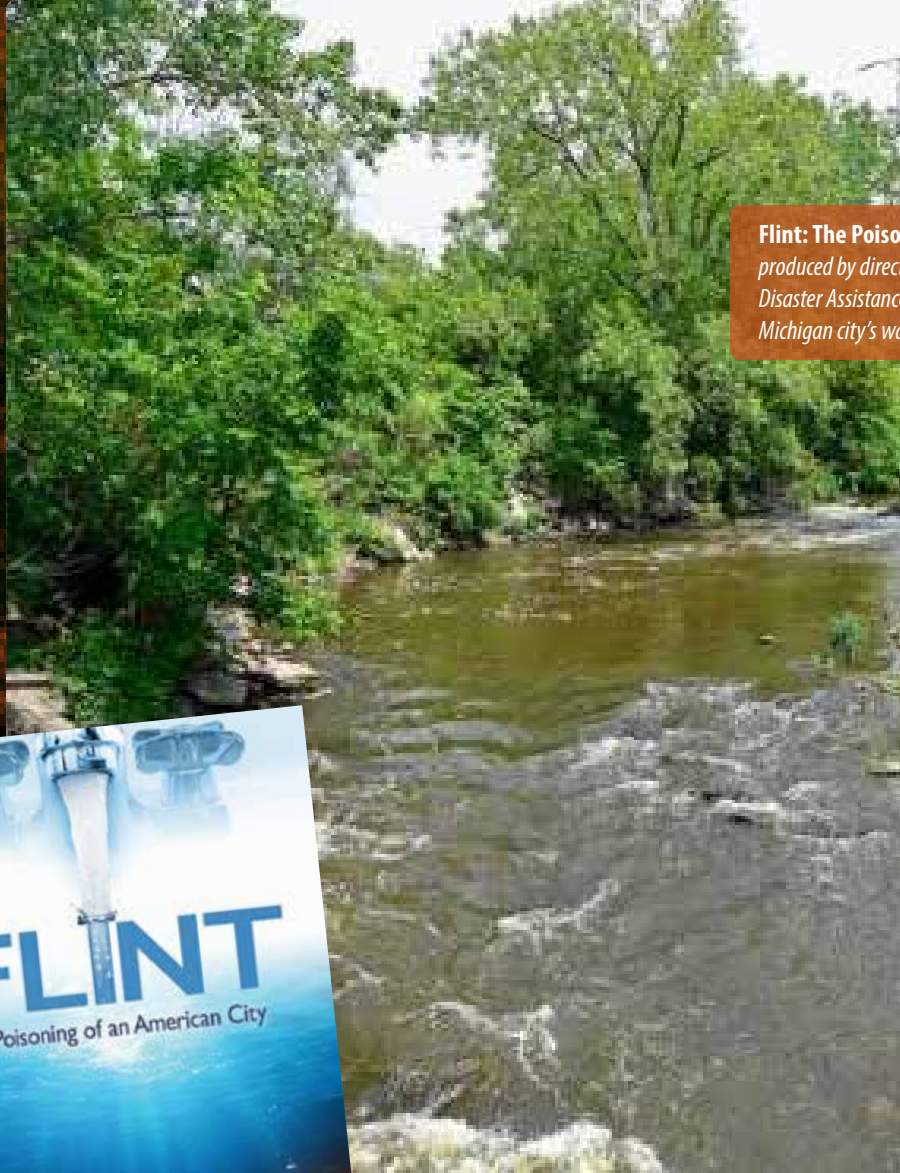
In 2019, the Office of Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency partnered with the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA) to bring Spanish-speaking camping leaders from the mainland to Campamento El Guacio in Puerto Rico. For two days, the contingent worked with and learned from staff and board members at El Guacio. "We wanted to . . . work together with them to create a Spanish-speaking network," said PCCCA Executive Director Joel Winchip. El Guacio, founded as a school and hospital, is now a hub for hurricane recovery efforts in the community, made possible thanks to a partnership with Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Christian Formation, is part of the PCCCA's efforts to better relate to Spanish-speaking Presbyterian camps — and to expand the network by making it more inclusive and diverse.

### Revitalization program a success

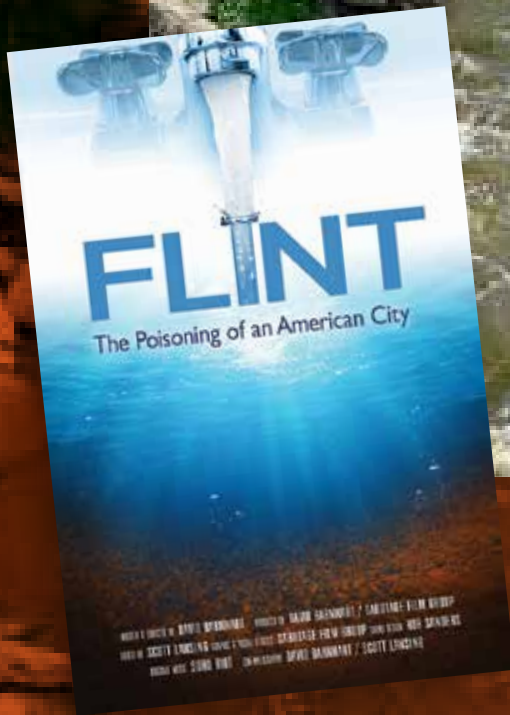
Church officials from several presbyteries gave the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Vital Congregations initiative process solid reviews. The Presbyterian Mission Agency initiative guides congregations through revitalization by focusing on Seven Marks of Congregational Vitality: lifelong discipleship formation; intentional, authentic evangelism; outward incarnational focus; empowering servant leadership; spirit-inspired worship; caring relationships; and ecclesial health. The Office of Vital Congregations is part of the PC(USA)'s Theology, Formation & Evangelism ministry. Celebrating history and prayer walks help create a new sense of purpose and meaning, says coordinator the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill. The process concludes with taking the U.S. Congregational Life Survey to help each congregation assess how they're doing in each of the seven marks. Congregations' work on the marks is also considered amid grant applications.



*The Rev. Dr. Margaret Boles is the Vital Congregations coordinator for the Presbytery of San Jose. She has witnessed transformation and good energy in the presbytery and its churches. (Photo courtesy of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, Calif.)*



**Flint: The Poisoning of an American City**, produced by director **David Barnhart** and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's **Story Productions**, highlights the Michigan city's water crisis.





*Enabling congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.*

## Disaster Response

### **Giving a voice to Flint's water crisis**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)'s Story Productions gave a voice to residents plagued by the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, with the filming of *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City*. Flint became synonymous with environmental disaster as lead from aging water pipes seeped into drinking water, poisoning residents and wreaking havoc on an already beleaguered city after losing manufacturing giant General Motors. Many residents who are featured in the film were forced to deal with kidney failure, lesions and hindrance of brain development. The water crisis is still evolving, and people continue to suffer consequences. PDA responds to human-caused disasters such as mass shootings and refugee crises, in addition to natural disasters, by enabling congregations and mission partners in affected areas.

### **When disaster strikes, Presbyterians step up**

"Presbyterians are always engaged . . . when there is a need," said the Rev. Jim Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance associate for National Disaster Response. This proved true when both recipients of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council's Don Hampton Service Award, named after a longtime member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team, were Presbyterian. Awardee Richard Ritter, a veteran volunteer with Team Rubicon, introduced an app that helped coordinate the needs of those

impacted by the tornado that struck Marshalltown in July 2018. First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant was honored for its work with Iowa Welcomes its Immigrant Neighbors (IowaWINS) in its efforts to help immigrant and refugee families following a raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistance included taking care of basic needs and legal help for those detained.

### **Fighting fire with faith**

"It's not a question of 'if' wildfire will strike, but 'when,'" California Gov. Gavin Newsom said. Climate change has created a "new reality" in the Golden State, sparking larger wildfires — fueled by a combination of dry conditions, extreme winds and power lines being knocked down. Presbyteries and churches, with the help of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), are responding to the blazes, working with people impacted by previous fires and preparing for new outbreaks. In 2019, PDA contributed more than \$212,500 of unrestricted funds to wildfire response — supplying refrigeration for medication and breast milk, and electricity alternatives such as generators and solar-powered batteries. PDA, largely funded by One Great Hour of Sharing, also organizes training for people responding to the crises.

*Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Eventide Community/ Disaster Response Ministries in Sacramento, Calif., helped in the clean-up and rebuilding of Añasco, Puerto Rico, after Hurricane Dorian. (Photo by Nancy Disher)*





*Children held fruit trees for planting at their FJKM school in Madagascar. (Photo by Dan Turk)*

*Education is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition. The educational mission of the church is to change lives — and the world.*

## Education

### **Church fights Madagascar's climate crisis**

In Madagascar, the challenges of hunger and loss of biodiversity are made worse by the climate crisis; nevertheless, the Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy eto Madagasikara (FJKM), the PC(USA)'s partner denomination in Madagascar, is making a difference. Student pastors trained by the FJKM are combating Madagascar's challenges by growing food and fast-growing trees, training farmers and studying local animals. Madagascar is among the poorest and most malnourished countries in the world — and the population is growing rapidly. Hundreds of Madagascar's plants and animals, which are endemic to the island nation, are threatened with extinction. Should they perish, many would go extinct entirely. Deforestation for manufacturing purposes is also threatening the nation's biodiversity. World Mission assistance is offered with the help of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

### **Funding education with generosity**

Tony and Lilia Acabal remember the struggle attending school in the U.S. after they immigrated from Guatemala and Mexico, respectively, three decades ago. "I felt left out," Lilia said, adding that she didn't want their three children "to go through the same thing." The family found community at the Menaul School, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related school

in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Acabal children, participants in the school's financial aid program, would not be able to attend Menaul without the generosity of others. The PC(USA)'s Christmas Joy Offering helps Menaul extend scholarships to students. The offering also benefits the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which helps current and retired church leaders and their families who are in critical financial need.

### **Transformation in Rwanda**

The Presbyterian Church of Kabuga, Rwanda, is teaching its students how to make a big impact with small actions. The nation's two primary schools — Kabuga (with 310 students) and Muyumba (with 192 students) — teach students, as early as nursery school, how a small action, like planting a tree, can be of great importance to the environment. This way of education contributes to the protection of biodiversity and fuels students' awareness of climate change while providing shade, homes for animals, sound barriers, therapeutic and health benefits and more. Students are also tasked with caring for them — developing the spirit of follow-up, responsibility and creativity. The Presbyterian Mission Agency partners with local churches and faith communities for education through World Mission.



*Newly registered students had their own trees to plant at the Presbyterian Church of Kabuga, Rwanda. (Photo by Ndayizeye Munyansanga Olivier)*



Supporters held a pretrial prayer vigil for **Mary Jane Veloso**.  
(Photo courtesy of Snap Mabanta)

*Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. An estimated 800,000 people, of which approximately 80% are women and up to 50% are minors, are trafficked across national borders. This number does not include the millions of people who are trafficked within their countries of origin.*

*“Trafficking in Persons Report,”  
U.S. Department of State, 2008*

## Human Trafficking

### **‘Mamonji’ raises awareness**

“The church is the means to help make people aware of the risks of trafficking,” said Christi Boyd, a mission co-worker. She is helping to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking in Madagascar’s coastal communities with a campaign called “Mamonji,” a word translated as “save.” The anti-trafficking campaign was launched in summer 2019. Christi and her husband, Jeff, work with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar and other partners to combat human trafficking through prevention. “You are a beautiful creation of God. You are not for sale,” Christi said. Give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to support the peace and reconciliation work of church partners through World Mission.

### **Speaking out on social media**

Global partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Migrant International, Churches Witnessing with Migrants and mission co-worker the Rev. Cathy Chang, are among many throughout the world who are praying and advocating for Mary Jane Veloso, a human trafficking victim. The Philippines native was arrested for smuggling heroin and sentenced to death after she was used by her captors as a drug mule. Granted a stay of execution, Veloso was allowed to act as a witness during the trial of her alleged traffickers. For nearly a decade, churches and migrant groups have supported Veloso — with prayer and a social media campaign. The campaign touts justice for all human trafficking victims with photos and hashtags such as #SaveTheLifeofMaryJane and #LetMaryJaneTestify.



**Christi Boyd**, a mission co-worker based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, spoke about an anti-human trafficking campaign in Madagascar. (Photo by Rich Copley)



Refugee children attended a trauma resiliency program that seeks to reinforce who they are in the eyes of God and that they are loved and valued. (Photo courtesy of Scott Parker)

*Guided by theological and ethical principles, the PC(USA) continues to urge Presbyterians and the government to work toward welcoming immigrants and refugees into our communities and enacting just laws that affect those who live and work in the United States.*

## Immigration and Refugee Crisis

### Engaging communities

"A lot of times when people are newcomers to an area ... it's hard to find a sense of belonging and place with people," said the Rev. David Roth, director of Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM) in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) supports programs like MDM, offering grant workshops and other engagements in communities with groups of low-income people. SDOP, a Presbyterian Mission Agency ministry supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, seeks to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Representatives met with grant recipients in Georgia in October, learning about MDM's Refugee Family Literacy and other programs that teach various skills, from English as a second language to sewing and baking.

### Ministry making a difference in the Middle East

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) teamed up with Middle Eastern partners to serve traumatized refugee children. Scott Parker, a PC(USA) ecumenical associate, helps migrant children in Lebanon unpack and manage trauma they have experienced. Many of the children Parker works with left their home countries, including Iraq and Syria, to escape violence. "When kids are able to slow down and play and be in a safe place, that helps them talk about difficult things," Parker said. He works with a Middle East Council of Churches ministry called Strong Kids, Strong Emotions, a play-based trauma resilience program in Beirut for refugee children ages 7–12. The program serves children from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds, and Parker noted that interfaith friendships have developed quickly.

### Welcome the stranger; do so with compassion

Grants from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance support an Immigrant Accompaniment program in Southern California. Presbyteries of the Pacific and San Gabriel hired organizer Kristi Van Nostran, touting her unique ability to connect with immigrants and her experience as a mission worker in El Salvador. "We determined that what we need is someone to help coordinate these efforts," Van Nostran said. "Everyone I talked to said yes, our congregation could benefit from a position like this." The program is based on a "three-pillar ministry" — encouraging people to offer hospitality in their homes, volunteering food and services, and advocating for asylum seekers by speaking up and following the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. The hope is to inspire other churches to do the same.

### Eyes on the border

The Presbyterian Mission Agency met with U.S. Border Patrol agents in April to discuss the agents' work on the Arizona-Mexico border. Topics ranged from family separation to undocumented immigrants attempting to cross into the United States. Matt Bowers, Douglas Border Patrol Station supervisor, commented, "The problem has to be solved in the country they're coming from." The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the PMA, replied: "We are one human race ... I believe in the theology of abundance, not scarcity." Agents often enforce laws with "personal feelings off," Bowers said, noting that media reports "portray us in a bad light." What's less well-known are agents' efforts to rescue those without food and water and how agents helped an undocumented woman found alongside a remote mountain trail give birth.

*Bhima Thapa of Bhutan and Nepal is the head baker at **Just Bakery** at Memorial Drive Ministries in Stone Mountain, Ga. (Photo by Rich Copley)*





*The Rev. Ashley Bair accepted the Emerging Earth Care Leader Award from **Presbyterians for Earth Care**.  
(Photo by Rich Copley)*



*“God’s work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated. Restoring creation is God’s own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore.”*

*PC(USA) Environmental Policy Statement*

## The Environment

### Small solar, big impact

Despite being a congregation of just seven people, Spencer Presbyterian Church made the switch to solar power with the help of a Restoring Creation Loan from the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program Inc. The \$43,000 loan paired with a \$10,000 PC(USA) grant and \$6,000 from its facilities budget funded the project, which should cover 95% to 100% of the West Virginia church’s energy needs. “It will save us money in the long run; it’s good for the environment,” said Brenda Wilson, church elder. Spencer became a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation, part of Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which is supported by One Great Hour of Sharing. The congregation also adapted its worship and more to align with reducing its carbon footprint and made additional “green” efforts, such as using non-disposable dining materials.

### Honoring love for Earth

Presbyterians for Earth Care recognized church leaders at its national conference in August. The Earth Stewardship Ministry Team at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, won the Restoring Creation Award. The team sells fair trade products and recycles electronics and batteries. Natalie “Lee” Pippin of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s first Earth Care Congregation in South Carolina, accepted the William Gibson Eco-Justice Award for her leadership and encouragement of sustainable lifestyles. The Rev. Ashley Bair of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, received the Emerging Earth Care Leader Award for her environmental activism. She helped organize the PC(USA)’s Fossil Free march, which encouraged divestment from fossil fuel companies.

**Spencer Presbyterian Church** dedicated its solar panels.  
*(Photo courtesy of Spencer Presbyterian Church)*





***VEGGI Farmers Cooperative** in New Orleans, is a multiethnic farmer's co-op growing fresh vegetables to sell to the public as well as grocers in East New Orleans. (Photo by Robyn Davis Sekula)*



*Attendees of the **2019 Earth Care** national conference got their hands dirty harvesting kale at the Stony Point Center. Pictured from left are **Lynn Morneweck-Fuld, Jo Randolph, Amirah AbuLughod** (staff farmer) and **Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez**. (Photo by Rich Copley)*



*Food justice is about helping people in marginalized contexts gain access to affordable, healthy food.*

*Spencer Presbyterian Church dedicates panels. (Photo by Spencer Presbyterian Church)*

## Food Justice

### **Caring for the Earth at Earth Care conference**

Participants got their hands dirty at the 2019 Presbyterians for Earth Care national conference. The event was held at Stony Point Center in Stony Point, New York, which doubles as a meeting place and working farm. Attendees had the opportunity to harvest kale and work with irrigation line in the center's Cornerstone Garden. A lot of what is picked in the garden goes to the Stony Point kitchen, making the venue a true farm-to-table experience. "Farm the land and grow the spirit," staff farmer Amirah AbuLughod said. The staff farmers work the gardens daily, but the conference demonstrated what extra sets of hands could contribute. The project put to work several of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's ministries, including Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns and Theology, Formation & Evangelism.

### **Farmworkers vs. fast-food giants**

The PC(USA) was the first Christian denomination to endorse a boycott against fast-food giants that refuse to support the Fair Food Hunger Program. The program, supported by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, highlights farming injustices and "ensures humane wages and working conditions for the workers who pick fruits and vegetables on participating farms." Last November, hundreds gathered in New York City

to protest Wendy's refusal to support the effort. Andrew Kang Bartlett, the Presbyterian Hunger Program's associate for National Hunger Concerns, joined as a representative of the PC(USA) "to show that we stand with the farmworkers and their long-term struggle." One Great Hour of Sharing supports the PHP's work to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes.

### **Ministries aid federal workers amid shutdown**

The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania offered food to furloughed federal employees amid the U.S. government shutdown last year. The shutdown lasted for 35 days, from Dec. 22, 2018, to Jan. 25, 2019. The shutdown stemmed from a dispute regarding funding a wall at the country's southern border with Mexico. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers were affected and missed paychecks. The food center, which opened in 1997, is supported mostly through donations from area churches and private donations. It opened as a resource for people in temporary, sudden need, like the government shutdown, but has adapted to offer supplemental food assistance to people living in poverty. The efforts are supported by the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Public Witness.

*The Coalition of Immokalee Workers protested against fast-food giants outside the University of Louisville and the PC(USA) headquarters. (Photo by Rick Jones)*





Presbyterian International Peacemaker **Lucy Awate Dabi** and her son, Raphael, visited Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Ky. (Photo by Rich Copley)

*Our mission is to transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.*

## Peace and Reconciliation

### Peacemakers' impact goes global

When the Rev. Moon-Sook Lee told Tennesseans that half of the 200,000 people killed by nuclear weapons in Japan in 1945 were Koreans brought to work there, she was shocked at their reaction. "I was glad to let them know about that reality," the South Korean preacher said. Lee was one of the dozen 2019 International Peacemakers of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Peacemaking Program. Thanks to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, peacemakers traveled internationally, sharing their stories. Anastasiia Rozykova, a Moscow journalist, educated attendees in Alabama and Oregon about politics and life in Russia. Erlinda Maria Quesada Angulo, of Costa Rica, enlightened others about problems caused by food production. Since 1984, approximately 300 PMA peacemakers from 60 countries have been hosted by Presbyterians.

### Combating an atmosphere of fear in Colombia

The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) facilitated a visit with representatives of churches and ecclesial organizations of Colombia to help restore peace in the Latin American country. At the June 2019 meeting, the group of delegates known as DiPaz illustrated human rights violations — including the murders of social leaders — and advocated for peace talks. Colombia's humanitarian crisis stems from new leadership's objections to a 2016 peace agreement. "We are deeply concerned

about the way in which the peace accords in Colombia are under threat of being undermined," said the Rev. Douglas Leonard, executive of the Ecumenical United Nations Office and World Council of Churches representative to the U.N. Contributions to PMUN connect Presbyterians in ministry as faithful disciples of Jesus in the global community.

### Youth stand up to gun violence

Gun violence affects everyone, including LaNiyah M. The Illinois teen was shot in Chicago in 2018. "I never thought it would be me," she said. She became involved with BRAVE (Bold Resistance Against Violence Everywhere), a program that develops peacemaking skills in youth. LaNiyah spoke at "Standing Our Holy Ground: A Year-Long Look at Gun Violence & What the Faith Community Can Do About It," a webinar presented by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program in July 2019. Other youth speakers included Kaaleah J., of Virginia, whose father was fatally shot. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program; Compassion, Peace & Justice; and Office of Christian Formation are among the ministries raising awareness of the impacts of gun violence on young people. This was the first in the yearlong "Standing Our Holy Ground" series from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. The efforts are supported by the Pentecost Offering through Presbyterian Special Offerings.





*YAV **Susannah Stubbs** (center) and students from Late Spring School were excited to finally reach the tallest peak at Jirisan National Park during a four-day, 23-mile hike. (Photo courtesy of Susannah Stubbs)*



***Regi Jones** (right) helped harvest lettuce at **Okra Abbey**, a 1001 New Worshiping Community and community garden in New Orleans. (Photo courtesy of Okra Abbey Community Giving Garden)*

*"I see God in the world around me, as well as in the faces of those around me. Throughout my year of service, I hope to learn what it truly means to serve, as well as develop a deeper relationship with God."*

*David Ehlert, YAV serving in New Orleans*

## Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs)

### Learning through community immersion

A new housing model encouraged Young Adult Volunteers in Korea to immerse themselves in the communities they volunteered in — conquering language gaps and more. "YAVs live in community with Korean partners ... to dismantle poverty through ministries of education, peacemaking and justice-seeking," said Hyeyoung Lee, YAV site coordinator. Susannah Stubbs taught English at Late Spring Moon Ik-hwan School. During her journey she was challenged mentally and physically, learning farming and completing a four-day, 23-mile hike at Jirisan National Park. Amanda Kirkscey had a similar experience at Jumin Church and in her work placement at the Welfare Center. She embraced the "ambiguity of the experience," learning to let her actions speak for themselves. The Presbyterian Mission Agency's yearlong Young Adult Volunteer program is supported by the Pentecost Offering.

### 'People make Glasgow'

Young Adult Volunteers Tracy LaMar, Kris Scharstein and Helen Richardson spent a year studying migration in Glasgow and the United Kingdom. As part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's YAV program, supported by the Pentecost Offering, the trio worked with local organizations attempting to bridge race, class and citizenship status in the region — a mecca for refugees and asylum seekers. The YAVs learned "radical hospitality, resilience and how to keep hope" throughout their service. They heard firsthand stories of Scottish people alerting migrant families of surprise deportation raids and were welcomed to their first Coptic Orthodox Easter. Their stories were featured in *Mission Crossroads*, a publication of Presbyterian World Mission about God's mission around the world through the PC(USA) and its church partners.

### Young Adult Volunteer harvests community with garden

Regi Jones helped revitalize Okra Abbey, a community garden in the Pigeon Town neighborhood of New Orleans. "We eat here. We celebrate here ... it's like everything in one," Jones said. Food grown in the garden, which is a 1001 New Worshiping Community, is served at weekly meals and delivered to area residents. It is supported by the Pentecost Offering. The garden isn't Jones' first dose of mission work. She helped with disaster assistance after Hurricane Matthew and worked with refugee children from Myanmar. The Fayetteville, North Carolina, native plans to continue her work in seminary, studying the spiritual discipline of farming and the impact of sustainable gardens.

### A helping hand for those in need

Noah Westfall spent a year in intentional community at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, working to improve conditions for families and communities as part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Young Adult Volunteer program. He served with Texas Impact, an interfaith advocacy organization. Westfall assisted with research for "Time & Treasure: Faith-Based Investment in Hurricane Harvey Response," and with Texas' House Bill 3616, legislation to coordinate recovery efforts by faith leaders after disasters. He also participated in a U.S.-Mexico border ministries immersion trip with Frontera de Cristo. Prior to his YAV service, Westfall tutored new immigrants during U.S. citizenship exam practice sessions in San Jose, Calif.



A 15-day-old girl was baptized in the Flathead River by the Rev. Miriam Mauritzen of Serious JuJu, a ministry for the skateboarding community in Glacier Presbytery. (Photo by Bob Paulus)



*Across the PC(USA), God is raising up leaders inspired to build new and novel forms of church for our changing culture. They are making new disciples of Jesus Christ to change and transform the world.*

## New Worshiping Communities

### **Where skateboarding and ministry collide**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement has, since its inception in 2012, supported the formation of more than 500 new ministries across the nation. Serious JuJu, a ministry for skateboarders and those who love them in Glacier Presbytery, is one of the communities supported by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

In August 2019, it baptized a 15-day-old girl and a young boy in Montana's Flathead River. The Presbyterian Mission Agency assists Serious JuJu through Mission Program Grants to help save the lives of young people living in Northwestern Montana. These grants, available through Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, support new worshiping communities and mid councils' work to transform existing congregations.

### **'Multicultural church' thrives**

The Open Table in Kansas City, Missouri, has grown into a leader among "multicultural churches." All white when it began, the 1001 New Worshiping Community now has a diverse leadership team that includes people of color and LGBTQ+ members. "We wanted a church that was concerned for people living under any form of oppression," said leader Nick Pickrell. With the help of grants from organizations such as the Presbyterian Mission

Agency, through Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries it has developed an antiracism curriculum, trained other organizations on inclusivity, and regularly gathers for dinner and conversation about social issues. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) encourages the creation of new worshiping communities.

### **Aid 'feels like a miracle'**

Without the support of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Rev. Denise McLeod isn't sure she would have survived. A widowed minister serving a small church, Trinity Presbyterian in Key West, Florida — and raising a son who is now a senior in college — she applied for Loan Forgiveness for Pastors through the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Financial Aid for Service. The program provides assistance to pastors serving in qualified roles. McLeod, who started a 1001 New Worshiping Communities ministry three years ago at Trinity called Ringing for God, has received more than \$15,000 in debt assistance. Last year, Ringing for God expanded into a dance praise ministry, drawing in about 75 young people. With the aid, McLeod has been able to pursue continuing education.





*A mother watered rows of plants in a garden in Madagascar. (Photo by Rolland Razafiarison)*

*Helping the PC(USA) respond to the call of Jesus Christ by proclaiming and living out our faith, laboring with love and energy to promote God's justice in the world.*

## Supporting Mission & Ministry

### **Mission Engagement Advisors**

Our network of regional mission engagement advisors is a "one-stop shop" for helping mid councils and congregations interpret and support the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and plan strategic stewardship campaigns.

Learn more at [pcusa.org/mes-team](https://pcusa.org/mes-team)

### **Presbyterians Today**

*Presbyterians Today*, the award-winning, official denominational magazine of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is published every other month and has more than 50,000 subscribers. Every issue supports and interprets the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and gives congregations and members practical ways to engage in effective ministry.

Learn more at [pcusa.org/today](https://pcusa.org/today)

### **Presbyterian News Service**

Our autonomous wire service is the Church's official news agency. Each week, PNS publishes and disseminates dozens of hard-news articles, features and other content focused on mission and ministry, congregations, mid councils, Presbyterians in the news, partners and more.

Learn more at [pcusa.org/aboutpcnews](https://pcusa.org/aboutpcnews)

### **Social Media**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency maintains an active presence with tens of thousands of users on multiple social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Through social media we encourage thoughtful and respectful conversation and dialogue about issues of the day.

Learn more at [pcusa.org/socialmedia](https://pcusa.org/socialmedia)

### **Communications Workshops**

The Presbyterian Communicators Network conducts on-site workshops for mid councils and congregations about many communications topics such as social media, newsletters, websites, media relations, story writing and more.

Learn more at [pcusa.org/communicate](https://pcusa.org/communicate)





After a presentation on “wonder” at a Vital Congregations gathering by Columbia Seminary’s **Dr. William P. Brown**, the **Rev. Dr. Margaret Boles** invited her congregation to put together an Advent booklet on wonder. The booklet included a photo of one of her church’s children, **Sophia**, meeting a caterpillar. (Photo courtesy of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, Calif.)

# Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Members

(as of April 2020)

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Sinthia Hernandez-Diaz  
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Diane Moffett (ex-officio)  
Joe Morrow (chair)  
Melinda Sanders  
Patsy Smith  
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Kevin Johnson  
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Alice Ridgill  
Raul Santiago (at large)  
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Judith Wellington

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Yvette Noble-Bloomfield  
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Ecumenical Advisory Member, Moravian Church  
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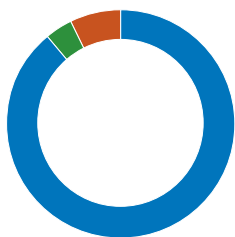
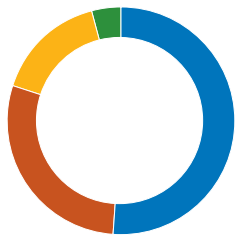
With gratitude for their service and ministry, we acknowledge the following board members who also served in 2019:  
Chip Low and Conrad Rocha



*A woman turned handmade paper into umbrellas at the Umbrella Village in Chiang Mai, Thailand. (Photo by Kathy Melvin)*

# Presbyterian Mission Agency Sources of Financial Support

There are four main sources of funds for the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: contributions; endowments, interest and dividends; sales of resources and special events; and per capita. Total Presbyterian Mission Agency revenues and gains for 2019 were \$73.3 million. Net assets were \$585.9 million.



	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Sources of Funds (in millions)</b>			
Contributions	\$ 8.8	\$ 28.8	\$ 37.6
Endowments, Interest and Dividends	9.9	11.2	21.1
Sales of Resources and Special Events	7.7	3.9	11.6
Per Capita	3.0	0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29.4</b>	<b>\$ 43.9</b>	<b>\$ 73.3</b>

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Uses of Funds (in millions)</b>			
Compassion, Peace & Justice	\$ 1.7	\$ 14.9	\$ 16.6
Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries	3.1	3.1	6.2
Theology, Formation & Evangelism	5.3	5.8	11.1
World Mission	3.8	15	18.8
Communications	1.8	1.0	2.8
Mission Engagement & Support	0.6	0	0.6
Administrative Services Group	5.4	0	5.4
General & Administrative	1.3	0.3	1.6
Other	0.2	2.3	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23.2</b>	<b>\$ 42.4</b>	<b>\$ 65.6</b>

	Percentage
<b>Stewardship of Mission and PMA Per Capita Funds</b>	
Program expenses	89 %
Management and general expenses	4 %
Fundraising expenses	7 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Note: The complete audited, consolidated financial statements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, for the year 2019 may be obtained online at [presbyterianmission.org/financials](https://presbyterianmission.org/financials) or by contacting the Presbyterian Mission Agency at 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202, 800-728-7228.

Closing day at the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. (Photo by Rich Copley)



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

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[presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)



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