

The Presbytery of West Jersey

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The Rev. Dr. Deborah G. Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter
Rev. Wendy Boer, Stated Clerk

Note - Dear Clerk of Session - the enclosed check is real! It is not to be deposited until the Session meets to discuss and accept the below commitment. We suggest you make copies of this letter for all session members. We are thankful for your ministry and entrust to your care this special gift.

December 2017

Dear Partners in Ministry,

God has entrusted us with the faithfulness of saints and the sale of buildings with resources for ministry and mission!

God calls us to be faithful stewards of the gifts we have been given. Part of our stewardship is aligning the resources of Presbytery to support the priorities the Holy Spirit has revealed for us. A presbytery is to equip congregations to more effectively engage the challenges affecting their communities.

At recent meetings of the Council, we discussed this focus. How can we jump start conversations, and promote ministry partnerships? Our discussion bore fruit. An idea emerged for a mission/stewardship ministry based on the parable of the Talents. (Matthew 25:14-30)

Here is how this missional /stewardship ministry works. Each congregation in our Presbytery is receiving this letter and a check for \$5,000 dollars. Your invitation/charge is: Use this for new or expanded mission in your local community, as you are led by the Holy Spirit. What specifically should you do? The answer is up to your session. Our hope is that you will use these funds to connect a passion of your congregation with a specific need in your community. If you wish, you may even pool your money and partner with other congregations. If you do not feel so called to engage in this ministry please send the check back - it is not for the general fund or simply to send to a ministry you support. It is not simply to sustain a ministry with which you are currently involved.

By cashing the check you agree to use the gift in the spirit for which it is given. We ask you to share this information with your congregation and also include in your annual reports.

This missional initiative is financed from "the sale of churches" fund. In accepting this invitation, all we ask is that you share your experience - with Council and we will collect and share at presbytery. Send an e-mail to us and tell us about your journey.

Share what you did with your \$5,000 dollars. Did you make an impact in your community? Did you find partners in mission? How did this enhance your witness to the love of Jesus Christ in your own backyard? Did this spark any longer-term mission initiatives?

We look forward to hearing more and learning together, as we answer God's call to: Celebrate, Nurture and Serve our Communities through our life together in Christ. We hope to have some idea of the mission around Easter 2018.

Have visions, dream dreams!!

Advent Blessings,

The Council of the Presbytery of West Jersey

The Presbytery of West Jersey approved this initiative on November 21, 2017.