

# Minnesota Valleys Presbytery



# 2021 Narrative Budget

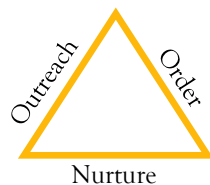
## Who We Are

*We are congregations who seek to be a collective expression of the Body of Christ joyfully participating in Christ’s on-going life and work.*

## Our Vision

*Our vision reshapes the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys from working for congregations to being with congregations as they serve Christ in the world.*

## What We Value



*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (I Thessalonians 5:11)*

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## Connected in Theology, Witness and Mission

Each Per Capita contribution and mission pledge supports the witness and mission of our 52 congregations in this region. Our congregations provide a Reformed witness of the Gospel. At the core of Presbyterian identity is a secure hope in the grace of



God in Jesus Christ. We are distinct in two significant ways—our Reformed theology and form of government that stresses the active, representational leadership of both ministers and church members.

We are a connectional church that, similar to the Church in Acts, shared their monetary gifts in a joint mission. Mutual sharing allows for those with much to share of their good gifts, and those with little to have the support needed for ministry.

Our faith calls us to a practical faith. Worship is an activity of common life. Our Confessions boldly proclaim “we believe statements” where our positions are public and represent our interpretation of Scripture jointly in daily life. Through mission, justice-making, stewardship and mutual empowerment and forbearance, we express the reality of God’s power to create and sustain community in the midst of a sinful world.

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*“What are human beings created to do? Reformed theology says that human beings are to “know God and enjoy [God] forever.”*

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## How the Presbytery Lives Into Its Mission

### The Commission on Presbytery Life

- Plans engaging, informative and celebratory Presbytery meetings, including the Commissioner Briefing and receiving the four church wide offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy
- Provides vision and strategy for the ongoing life of the presbytery
- Promotes, encourages, and enables congregational participation in, and support of, Presbyterian mission, social justice concerns, and peacemaking initiatives, including but not limited to the presbytery’s current mission connections:
  - Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
  - Lakeshore Center at Okoboji
  - Occidenté Partnership Task Force
  - Ethiopia-South Sudan Ministry Network
  - The Academy (Commissioned Pastor Training)
- Develops presbytery-sponsored events, both regionally and presbytery-wide, to enrich the lives and enhance the ministries of our congregations.

**Total Cost of Ministry: \$39,825.00**



Commission on Presbytery Life	\$ 1,200.00
Presbytery Meeting and Moderator Expenses	\$ 5,000.00
Ministries of the Presbytery (Education Events, Youth Triennium)	\$ 4,500.00
Mission Connections (Ethiopia-South Sudan, Occidenté, Camps at Clearwater and Okoboji,	\$ 16,725.00
Unified Mission Support (GA and Synod)	\$ 14,000.00

## The Commission on Presbytery Operations

Ensures accountability to the councils of the church.

- Between the meetings of the Presbytery, Operations uses delegated authority to take actions on behalf of the Presbytery as necessary
- Provides oversight for the Presbytery's budgeted and designated finances.
- Provides oversight for the Presbytery's property
- Acts as Trustees of the Presbytery in accordance with the presbytery's Fiscal Accountability Policies
- Provides oversight of the Presbytery staff and implement the presbytery's approved personnel policies.
- Nominates members to serve on the Committee on Representation
- Maintains communications with the Synod of Lake and Prairies and the General Assembly
- Receives proposed changes to Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Operating Procedures and recommend action to presbytery.

**Total Cost of Ministry: \$119,655.00**



Commission on Presbytery Operations, Administrative Commissions, Legal Expenses	\$ 4,000.00
Per Capita Apportionments	\$ 84,245.00
Financial Services	\$ 6,860.00
Presbytery Office Building/Utilities	\$ 24,550.00

## Our Staff



## Staff Services and Support

Presbytery staff includes three employees – the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk and Associate for Administration. Each person provides distinct service to the presbytery through resourcing, governance, communication, administration, and supporting pastors and congregations.

The Executive Presbyter (EP) serves full-time as the presbytery leader with administrative and spiritual responsibility for the pastors and congregations of the presbytery. In ministry with other leaders, the EP works to build relationships with congregations and pastors, being the public face of the presbytery the executive sets a positive tone for ministry and mission. Additionally, the EP resources commissions, collaborates with ecumenical partners, coaches the ministry plan, provides guidance on fiduciary, operational, and strategic direction, and supervises staff. On a monthly basis the EP time can be divided as a third on direct ministry to pastors and congregations. Another third on strategic planning and coaching the ministry plan and her remaining time managing the office, serving on ecumenical boards, writing, and serving the PC(USA) at large.

The Stated Clerk serves as the part-time Ecclesiastical Officer of the presbytery. The Clerk performs all duties prescribed by the Book of Order and the Presbytery By-Laws. Additionally, the clerk preserves and records official records and minutes of the presbytery, resource the Permanent Judicial Commission, administrative commissions, Commissions on Presbytery Life, and Operations; arrange for facilities for each presbytery meeting; serve as parliamentarian, and recruits and trains members to serve as Recording Clerks.

The Associate for Administration manages the daily operations of the presbytery office. She serves the presbytery through communications, processing financial transactions, distributing resources, working with denominational agencies, website management and assists commissions and supports the presbytery through administrative support.

**Total Cost of Ministry \$247,013**  
(including salaries, benefits, and reimbursables)



## Commission on Congregational Transformation and Development

*Our vision is to be a catalyst to our congregations, as they discern their passions and live out God's call to ministry and mission.*

- Encourages and equips our congregations, individually, and as networks
- Connects congregations with appropriate resources for their ministries
- Challenges congregations in the development of new collaborative mission and ministry initiatives.
- Acts on grant requests from congregations seeking support:
  - for new, collaborative mission and ministry initiatives
  - for well-articulated growth-oriented goals (Isaiah 43:19)
  - for upgrading technologies
  - for conferences, workshops, other learning opportunities

**Total Cost of Ministry: \$ 8,100**



## Committee on Representation

*Our vision is to prayerfully discern God's call to those who might serve*

- Fulfills the constitutional responsibilities assigned to it in the Book of Order, G-3.0103.
- Serves as the nominating committee of the Presbytery, striving to fulfill Presbytery's mandate of diversity and inclusivity.

**Total Cost of Ministry: \$ 500**

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*Mission, learning together,  
service to others*

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## Committee on Congregational Nurture

*Our vision is to foster the well-being of all congregations of the presbytery.*

- Develops relationships with and among the presbytery's congregations with a strong commitment to their overall health and well-being
- Conducts regular visits to each congregation
- Communicates the particular needs or concerns of the congregations to the appropriate presbytery entity.

**Total Cost of Ministry: \$ 500**



# Pastors and Ministry Partners

*How beautiful are the feet of those who spread Good News*



## Commission on Leadership

- Provides support, resources, and care for pastors
- Works with congregations and pastors in the all areas of their relationships, including pastoral transitions
- Acts on grant requests from individuals seeking support for conferences, workshops, other learning opportunities
- Works with inquirers and candidates on behalf of the Presbytery as they move through the process of preparation for ministry as outlined in the Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry from the General Assembly
- Provides for the training, examination, and nurture of Ruling Elders seeking to be commissioned to pastoral service
- Works with congregations in exploring non-traditional staffing models

Total Cost of Ministry: \$ 12,000



## Transformation Going Beyond Change

Training and projects this year:

- ◆ January 10-11: Leadership Retreat, Overnight Event with Corey Schlosser-Hall and workshop tracks for Elders and Deacons
- ◆ February 20: Gerald Liu webinar: Atonement and Redemption
- ◆ Three webinars by Sarah Ruble on Race and Christianity
- ◆ Coaching and Conflict Intervention Task Force Training
- ◆ Book Discussions on Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman and How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season by Susan Beaumont
- ◆ Preparing the Small Church Residency Program
- ◆ Established first rural church internship with Dubuque Theological Seminary and First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago
- ◆ Received \$31,050 in Year Two funding toward Transformation Going Beyond Change Initiative.

## We Are a Matthew 25 Presbytery

In August 2019, we voted to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery, and the following congregations in our presbytery have also signed up for Matthew 25 Initiative: Canby, Dawson, Edgerton, Lismore, Mankato, Osakis, Redwood Falls, Renville, Saint Cloud, Saint James, Saint Peter, Willmar, Windom, and Worthington.

Identifying as a Matthew 25 congregation or presbytery means that we 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.

We are happy to share that our goal was to have 11 of our churches sign on, and the total now stands at 14 churches.

## Responding to COVID 19

The year 2020 will be known in history as the year when the world stood still. COVID19 changed life's landscape. The virus killed hundreds of thousands across the globe. The finite nature of our existence and our vulnerability lay before us daily. As a result, the COVID19 public health emergencies made demarcation lines politically and philosophically in society. Mitigating the virus would mean caring for one another in the ways Jesus taught us "to love thy neighbor as thy self." From March 2020 to now, the staff has worked to move ministry online. We assumed a virtual presence for meetings and resourcing—this new way of working challenged and stretched us all. Our pastors responded in kind. Pastors move worship online and found a rebirth of interest in worship from new followers. The Presbyterian Church held its first virtual General Assembly and all other agencies of the Church led training virtually with significant numbers of participants, some of which would not have been able to travel to a national event.

We have been challenged and blessed in many ways by the pause in "normal" living. SanDawna Ashley has represented the Presbytery on the State level meeting weekly with the Department of Health and representatives from the Governor's Office. Her contribution to policy has encouraged guidelines that would clarify specific concerns for faith-based organizations. Judicatories from outside of the cities raised the issues of Southwest and Central Minnesota. Also, the emphatic cry of judicatories highlighted the inequities around the lack of focus on the needs of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Consequently, the data reveals BIPOC communities are the most impacted by the virus and most likely to die from the disease. In this way, we served as theological advisors speaking truth to power and also affecting policy development. Like all, people are ready to go back to normal. However, what will the new normal look like post-COVID19? We believe this will be a significant part of our focus for 2021.

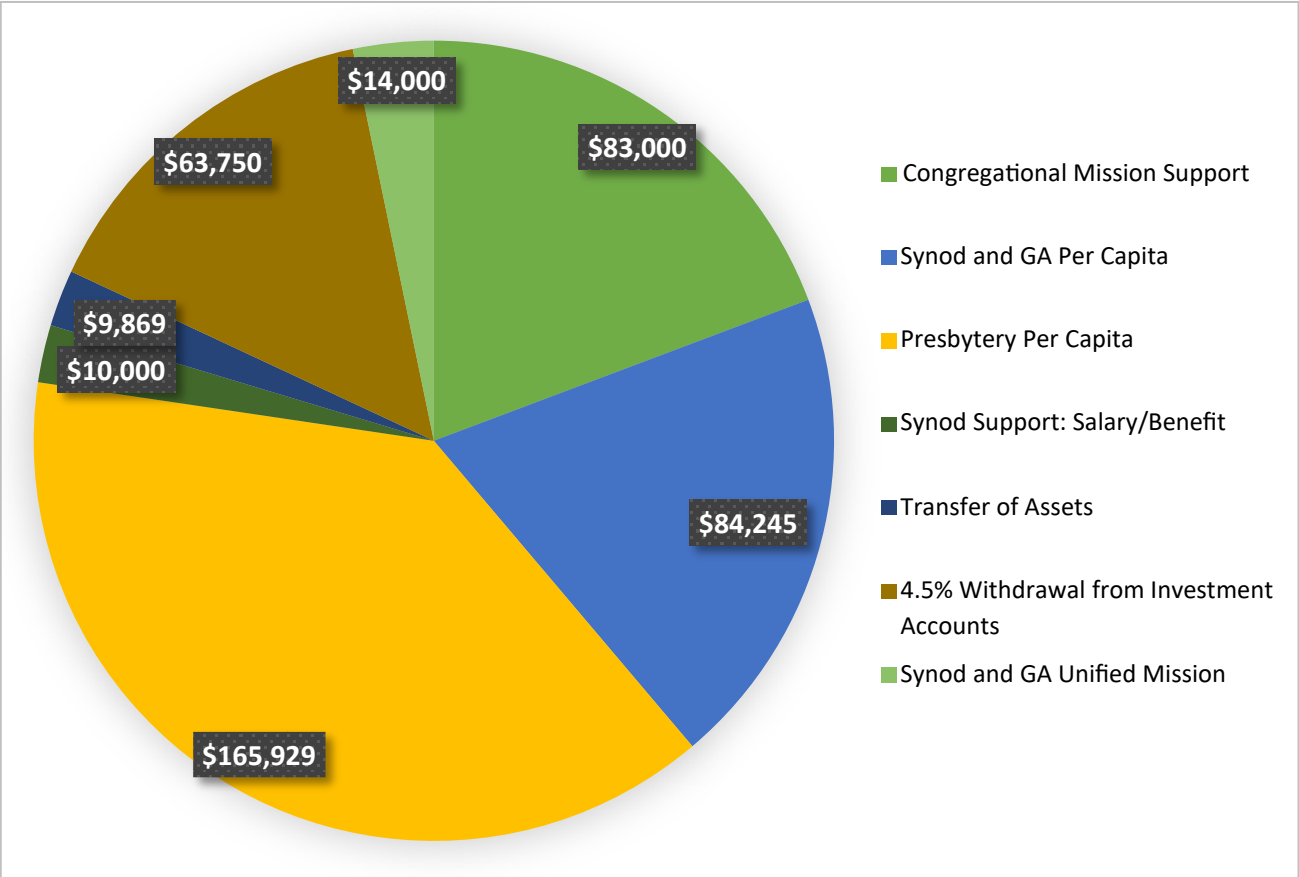
### We responded to the needs of congregations by:

- Assisting with the Paycheck Protection Program Loan Applications
- Providing Technology Upgrade Grants
- Virtual Worship Leadership
- Securing grants from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies
- Monthly Pastor virtual gatherings
- Resiliency and Stress Management Webinars
- Providing Policy Interpretation
- Reviewing Reopening Plans





# Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys 2021 Income



# Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys 2021 Expenses

