



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

Dear Friends in Christ,

*When did we see you?* Almost two years ago, the General Assembly urged the congregations and people of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to take up the invitation of Jesus in Matthew 25: to see his face in the face of the stranger, to respond to those living in poverty, hungry or thirsty, unhoused, imprisoned or sick as we would respond to Christ himself. The Church has joyfully embraced this invitation, working together to end systemic poverty and eradicate structural racism, experiencing renewed congregational vitality as we together embrace Christ's call.

*When did we see you?* In these hard and strange days of pandemic disease, it is scarcely possible for any one of us not to see. The sick are among us, and in the midst of COVID-19, the harms experienced by those who are most vulnerable and who have been historically disadvantaged are even more apparent.

Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) has brought resources to our congregations, mid councils and global partners to engage this disaster, offering \$2.7 million in grants to you, your congregations and our global neighbors to support our response to COVID-19. We are beyond grateful for the ways Presbyterians are reaching out to their communities to serve and to heal as we live through this pandemic together.

But we also know this: In this season of challenge, many of our own congregations who were getting by and getting God's work done are now at risk. These congregations, whose work is among the most vulnerable, in communities of color who live with oppression and who serve our refugees and immigrants, are continuing to serve while themselves being unsure how to keep the lights on, pay the pastor or the mortgage. As you have shown up for the least of these, we are here to show up for you.

Drawing from budgeted funds that were reserved for the Executive Director's Office of the PMA to support the Matthew 25 invitation, I have made \$300,000 available to PDA to award continuity of ministry grants of up to \$7,500 to congregations whose work and survival may be at risk due to the impact of COVID-19. These grants can be accessed through the Emergency Grant Program of PDA, by application of your presbytery. More than one congregation per presbytery may apply, and these additional funds available for congregational continuity are intended to be given alongside the grants already being awarded by PDA for COVID-19 outreach and mission work. As these funds are limited, we ask each presbytery to carefully consider which congregations are most in need. As you are working through resources available to support your congregations, you might also check insurance policies to see if an interruption of business clause might provide for additional assistance.

Information about all grants available for COVID-19 congregational support and response can be accessed at [pda.pcusa.org/situation/covid-19](https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/covid-19).

We are grateful for the generosity of Presbyterians, who make these gifts possible. We are moved and inspired by the work of congregations and mid councils who have leaned into the challenges of serving as the hands and feet of Christ in this wilderness of pandemic, the likes of which we have never seen.

We hope that these resources, modest though they may be, will support you and your churches as you see and come alongside those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, imprisoned and sick, serving them as you gladly serve our Lord.

In faith,

The Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett  
President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency