



*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,  
as indeed you are doing.* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

October 23, 2024

Dear Friends of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina,

May the peace of Christ be with you! I remain grateful for your continued leadership and ministry of your congregations, especially in a day when normal life, time, and resources are becoming harder to find. Even more so, I am very appreciative of your support of the work and ministry of the Presbytery in 2024. This is especially apparent in the continuing aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which caused so much damage and devastation in this part of the state. The repercussions of the storm will be felt for many years to come. Regardless, I am encouraged by God's Holy Spirit as I have witnessed how each of you have reached out to minister to the needs of your local and neighboring communities.

In the same way, Presbytery has continued its ministry to our members and congregations. So far in 2024, we have . . .

- Provided disaster assistance to affected areas of the Presbytery after Hurricane Helene through three volunteer Disaster Relief Coordinators. In addition, the General Council has authorized the hiring of a full-time Disaster Recovery Coordinator.
- Approved the report of the Revisioning Task Force to create a new design of ministry for the Presbytery.
- Celebrated the anniversaries of our international partnerships with Guatemala (30 years) and Malawi (20 years).
- Provided 23 full-week scholarships for youth to attend Camp Grier this summer.
- Awarded \$200,000 in grants to provide affordable housing to those in need in WNC.

None of this would be possible without your generous support of PWNC. In an effort to continue these and other mission opportunities in 2025, PWNC needs your financial commitment. I know the impact of Hurricane Helene is wide-spread and may have an impact on your church's finances this year, but I encourage you to give your PWNC pledge knowing God is faithful and remembering we are in this together. Presbytery's budget is supported solely by the financial commitment our churches make. If you would kindly return the enclosed form by November 27, 2024, it will help us in our budget preparations for the coming year. If your church was not impacted and is able, consider giving above your usual amount to help offset those who were affected.

Let us continue to be encouraged by what God has done and will do in the midst of everything that is happening. Thank you for your continued support!

Peace,

Byron Wade, General Presbyter

Enclosures



## NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

Continued support for **Artisan Church** in Lincolnton, a new worshipping community, as they grow and minister to the folks in Lincoln County.

## MALAWI

This year, PWNC celebrates its 20 year mission partnership with Malawi that includes:

- Ebenezer School Scholarships
- Ebenezer School maintenance and improvements
- Nkhoma Hospital support for general use, medication and rural clinics
- Support for Nkhoma Seminary and its graduates
- Men in the Mirror Program
- Annual visits by our mission team to the hospital, school and seminary

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Awarded \$10,000 and helped acquire another \$15,000 in grants to rebuild a **Lincoln County Bridge** to provide 26 families access to their homes after a flash flood in January 2024 stranded them.

PWNC sent disaster assistance teams to **Avery County, Canton, and Montreat**, to help folks rebuild in areas impacted by historic flooding.

## DAILY CHANGE

Awarded local and international grants to provide food security, nutrition education and crisis assistance through monies collected from our **Daily Change** offerings.

## HURRICANE HELENE

In response to the devastation of **Hurricane Helene**, which included so many of PWNC's churches and communities, the Presbytery immediately put in place 2 volunteer disaster relief coordinators. These volunteers worked to assess supply and construction material needs, and to locate the availability of these resources for distribution. Soon afterward, we added a Pastoral Care Coordinator to provide the Presbytery with resources for spiritual support. In our desire to further assist the folks of PWNC, the General Council saw the need to approve the hiring of a **Disaster Recovery Coordinator** who will develop, coordinate and implement a long-term disaster response plan.

## YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS TO PWNC DO AMAZING THINGS!!

## DISSOLVED CONGREGATIONS

When a congregation decides it has come to the end of its ministry, Presbytery is there to assist with a dignified closure, including the care of remaining members and stewardship of the property.

## SUPPORT FOR PASTORS

Maintained seasoned mentoring and support groups through **Committee on Ministry** oversight, as well as direct care from the **General Presbyter** and **Presbytery Associates**.

## CHURCHES IN TRANSITION

- Secured Interims
- Trained & Supported Pastor Nominating Committees
- Welcomed 8 new ministers to PWNC.



## PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Provided guidance, spiritual care and accountability for folks planning to enter the ministry. We currently have 3 candidates and 3 inquirers.

## GUATEMALA

This year, PWNC celebrates its 30 year partnership with Guatemala that includes:

- Scholarships for children to continue education
- Microloans through PW
- Man in the Mirror Program
- Health initiatives
- Partner church to church visits
- Efficient cook stoves provided
- Church partner specific projects
- Scholarships for college and seminary

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Awarded \$200,000 in grants to provide affordable housing to those in need in western North Carolina.

## YOUTH

Provided 23 full week scholarships for the youth of PWNC to attend **Camp Grier**, which provides Christian growth through adventure, challenge and service.

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

In its 25th year, another CLS class just started its Fall term. 25 Commissioned Pastors currently serve in 21 of PWNC's churches; 1 is Dean of our **Church Leadership School**, and 1 serves on staff at PWNC.

# YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS TO PWNC DO AMAZING THINGS!!

## IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Approved the strategic planning process of the Revisioning Task Force. Now the Implementation Team begins its work to put into place changes to our committee/team and staff structure.

## CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

If a congregation is discouraged or overwhelmed by conflict, sensitive and wise counsel is introduced by Presbytery to help bring resolution.

## PRESBYTERY STAFF

Presbytery staff partners with hundreds of volunteers from our churches all over western North Carolina who faithfully serve our teams doing the mission and ministry of PWNC. Without the Presbytery staff, so much of our wonderful ministry would never happen!



Thank you for your support of PWNC

# PWNC PLEDGE FORM

## 2025 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

We pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to 2025 Unified Giving  
(Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly Support)

**Unified Giving does not include institutions, designated giving, or special offerings**

NAME (CONTACT PERSON) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### WE PLAN TO SEND OUR PLEDGE TO PWNC:

MONTHLY

QUARTERLY

ANNUALLY

Comments for Presbytery Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please return this 2025 Pledge Form** to Lisa Pressley at 114 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655, or send by email to [lpressley@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:lpressley@presbyterywnc.org) by **November 27, 2024** with your congregation's response. We ask that you prayerfully consider pledging at least the amount you pledged in 2024 or, if possible, increase your pledge for 2025. If you need information regarding your 2024 contributions, contact Lisa Pressley at 828/438-4217.

