



TRINITY PRESBYTERY CONNECTIONAL CHURCH GRANT TESTIMONALS

To say that we live in unusual times is an understatement, and it doesn't capture the festering anger and despair. Devastating events have happened one after another: a global pandemic, the folding of many businesses and institutions, a stressed global economy, a tragic incident that exposed continuing racism, famine in many places, and more. All these distressing situations have affected people here and around the world.

Yes, the times are dark. But, amazingly, the darker it gets, the brighter the stars shine. God's grace emerges victorious. Three small yoke congregations in Laurens County applied for the Trinity Presbytery Connectional Church Grant. The Lydia Pres. Church needed assistance to stock up the food bank housed in its facility. Todd Memorial Pres. hoped to build up the emergency fund it shares with the other congregations. The Bethany congregation wanted to meet local and global food needs. These congregations could never have imagined what blessings would come from God's generosity through presbytery!

Todd Memorial has used the emergency fund to meet many different pressing needs. Even though the presbytery grant was for \$950, over \$4000 has passed through the fund to assist folks in reduced circumstances. One gentleman on a fixed income was getting further and further behind on his bills, so the churches stepped in to make a \$260 truck payment. The following day, a Todd member, unaware of this assistance, felt led to give \$240 to the emergency fund. In another case, a middle-aged couple found themselves homeless, so the churches put them up in a motel for three days until the husband was paid from his new job. While at the motel, this couple received their government assistance check. They were able to put down a deposit on a rental house and pass on the kindness they had received by assisting a homeless family with a night in a motel.



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The food bank housed at the Lydia site and started by the Laurens County Cluster of Smaller Membership Churches has never been busier. The pantry had served a dozen or so families and occasional emergencies primarily. Now, the emergency calls have increased, and seventy-five households in Laurens County get food assistance monthly. Many big-hearted people have surfaced, offering groceries for the food bank or a financial contribution. On one occasion, as the food was being distributed, two nurses from the local hospital drove up. The hospital had decided to give the Lydia food bank the groceries from a food drive competition among their various departments. What a stunning act of kindness! Several Lydia members, making the food bank their missional calling, have organized, recruited, and promoted the pantry, thus strengthening its service. Their enthusiasm has generated participation from the rest of the congregation.

Both the Dinner Church housed in the Joanna Grill and Chapel of Hope at Hanson Circle in Laurens stopped meeting due to government restrictions on meetings held in close quarters. But the needs in the surrounding communities did not cease. At the request of the cluster of churches, the Joanna Grill has prepared seventy-five individually packaged meals twice a month and church volunteers have delivered them to Hanson Circle, a community of older adults on a low fixed income.

If you haven't taken advantage of this grant and would like to, please click the image for more information and/or to apply:

