

**Season of Generosity**  
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**November 5, 2017**

During this Season of Generosity, I've been asked to share a bit about my involvement in MPC's mission work. Just like many of you in attendance today, I've had the opportunity to participate in various church mission projects that are making a positive difference for others.

Several years ago, I decided to volunteer to serve on our Mission Committee – a group of nine individuals who coordinate and guide the current 17 mission projects of MPC. Over the course of the past year, we discussed how we are organized and questioned if there is a better way to carry out our responsibilities. During our meetings, we attempt to evaluate if the projects we're involved with are successful and meeting our goal of serving those in need. We ask if we, as a church community, are going to be able to sustain our mission work at the level of participation needed to ensure successful outreach. Without a doubt, our committee cares deeply about this work – serving our neighbors near and far.

Just a few weeks ago, we reviewed grant applications for Mission Funding – a tough situation as we had requests totaling over \$51,000, and we had \$14,500 available to distribute to worthy programs. We considered our relationships with these community agencies, the number of people who would be impacted by the programs making application, and their projected outcomes. Our discussion was thoughtful and the decision-making was difficult, but in the end, we were grateful and proud that we as a church are able to support community organizations financially due to our endowments.

For me, working alongside other members of the congregation - in meetings and in mission activities - has been rewarding and fun. We get to know each other as we share our stories and some laughter while getting the work done. In addition, it's gratifying to see the people whose lives our mission work is touching. Whether it's talking with the residents at Homeless Connections or those individuals and families taking their Sunday noon meal at the Salvation Army.

I know my experience is not unique. Most of you have experienced the same. Whether it's through our special offerings or direct involvement, we give back because that's what we do as members of MPC. We care about our local and global community and the children, families and individuals who need a helping hand.

I want to share a quote taken from the PCUSA website relating to Mission:

*"Presbyterians believe mission is not so much an obligation but an opportunity – to see how God, who is already present in all places, can and does work in marvelous new ways helping us grow in our own faith and commitment to Christ's mission. It will mean continuing to risk, question, grow and seek, through prayer and interactions with others, what it is that we are called by the Holy Spirit to do as faithful servants of Christ."*

In closing, thank you for your past involvement, and I ask for your continued support of this important work.