

Per capita is part
of the glue that holds
Presbyterians together

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church. Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

Why per capita?

The Book of Order states that per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to "demonstrate the unity and interdependence of the church" (G-3.0106).

Per capita exists to hold Presbyterians together so the whole church may share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterians:

- our theological identity
- our connectedness
 - our system of councils that allows ruling elders and teaching elders together to discern the mind of Christ
- our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal
- our core structures that keep up together as a church
- our call to work for full participation in decision-making

Per capita allows us to work with other congregations to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

*"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit
For the common good.: ~ I Cor. 12:7*

For more information, see pcusa.org/percapita



Per Capita

Per Capita for 2019 is \$15.75

General Assembly - \$8.95

Synod of the South Atlantic - \$2.05

Flint River Presbytery - \$4.75

GA increased by \$1.45/member and FRP DECREASED as an act of care for our congregations

Per capita is a fundamental way in which the nearly 11,000 congregations and councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected to participate in the work of the wider church.

Because it is rooted in the connectional and covenantal nature of the Presbyterian church, as affirmed by the ordination vows taken by ruling elders and teaching elders, per capita could be called a **Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund**.

What is "per capita"?

The official definition:

"Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians." (*GA Minutes, Part I, 1995*)

How much?

The annual per capita is a combined request from a congregation's presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly - based on their respective budgets for the coming year. Our presbytery's per capita rate is recommended by our Finance Committee and reflects only partial – *not full* -- expenditures on administrative and governing body functions.

Paying "per capita" is similar to:

- contributing one's dish to a potluck meal
- pitching in with other passengers to pay for gasoline for a road trip
- paying to be connected to the Internet
- paying your part of the tab when a group of friends goes out to eat together

What Flint River Presbytery Per Capita Supports

- presbytery meeting expenses, including reports
- auditing financial records
- maintaining the presbytery website and computers
- expenses for training GA Commissioners, and Moderator training
- expenses of the Permanent Judicial Commission and the Presbytery Advisory Board
- office supplies, postage, phone, denominational materials
- staff training ... and more.

What Synod of the South Atlantic Per Capita Supports

- fulfilling the constitutional and administrative responsibilities assigned to the Synod in the Book of Order
- expenses for bringing commissioners to Synod meetings
- training events for congregational transformation
- scholarships for theological education
- covenants with church-related institutions within synod bounds
- facilitating conversation between the councils of the church
- offering pastoral care and support to presbytery staff members
- and chaplains of synod institutions and military

What General Assembly Per Capita Supports

- expenses for bringing commissioners and advisory delegates to a General Assembly, as well as holding the meeting
- the cost of bringing together presbytery and synod church leaders for training events, as well as those who serve on permanent GA committees
- tools to develop and administer ordination exams
- travel expense of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly
- the ministerial call system and other work that helps all Presbyterians discern their vocation
- production and distribution of the Book of Order, the Book of Confessions and other GA publications
- a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups in the U.S. and worldwide.