March 25, 2024

Dear Clerk of Session:

God's peace and grace be with you as we look forward to the renewal of spring and the Easter season.

Please make copies of this letter for your Session and interested church members in your congregation. We welcome you to participate in a Leap Year Mission Gift Challenge to help support Basic missions of Presbytery of Mackinac. We have a history of supplementing our missions with operating fund reserves. The problem is our presbytery can no longer afford to operate this way. Operating reserves are to be used to support operations of presbytery only.

Thus, the presbytery Budget and Financial Services Committee has advised lowering the 2024 Missions budget by the amount of $17,600 (from $75,600 in 2023 to $58,000 in 2024). Campus ministries received the largest decrease of $12,600 (49% cut). These ministries are at Bay College (Escanaba), LSSU, Anchor House (Sault. Ste. Marie), and NMU (Marquette). The budget for Presbytery Point Camp and Retreat Center also decreased by $5,000 (14% cut). At a time where costs are going upward, our mission budget should also be rising with inflation just to stay even. As a result, the Mission Committee and Budget and Financial Services Committee proposed a 2024 Mission Challenge to the churches and all members of Presbytery of Mackinac. It was approved (along with the 2024 budget) at the Feb. 24, 2024 stated meeting by a vote of presbytery members. This will be a Special Offering to help support missions of our presbytery. It is not meant to replace annual Basic Mission gifts from our churches (which hopefully each church supports the best they are able). Also, this Special Offering can provide reserves for missions in which we engage in the future.

2024 Leap Year Mission Gift Challenge: We are seeking pledges of 366 gifts for up to $366 each to help supplement and support Missions of Presbytery of Mackinac. This can be from individuals, couples, families, and other groups (youth, women's, men's) as well as Sessions of our churches. Your church can plan an event if necessary to raise funds for this special offering. Gifts and pledges for this challenge should be directed to the presbytery office so gifts can be placed into a special mission account. The address is:

Presbytery of Mackinac, P. O. Box 674, Petoskey, MI 49770

Attn: Leap Year Gift Challenge

With your pledges and gifts, we have an opportunity to revitalize and promote mission within our presbytery. We also appreciate your efforts to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in your local community. If you have any questions, please direct them to Dan Richards, mobile phone number (906) 204-5123 or email address danrichards1948@gmail.com

Thank you, Dan Richards, Budget and Financial Services chair