



To the Member Congregations of Mission Presbytery:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You have been close in our minds and hearts over these last weeks as we have all tried to navigate through this time marred by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the innovation and creativity you've shown in continuing to worship electronically has been heartening, we are heartbroken to learn that six of our congregations have members who have tested positive for Covid-19, and as of this day, one person has died. Along with being a difficult time spiritually and emotionally, we know it's been a difficult time financially for most of our congregations. Hence this letter, to lift you in prayer and offer support.

Some of you have already benefited from the support of sources outside the Presbytery. We are glad to hear that some have applied for the federal Payroll Protection Plan. As of this writing, one congregation has been accepted to receive that help. We're also grateful to the Synod of the Sun for underwriting a year-long Zoom license for about a dozen of our congregations. There are also a handful of applications for grants from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance that Ed Sackett is working to help us process.

General Council would like to add to the assistance. We have examined the assets of the Presbytery to look for ways we could help to support you during this time. For some of you, it might go to help pay the light bill or a staff member's salary. For others, it might go to restock your food pantry or provide needed assistance to your neighborhood. It's up to you. Our proposed gift is unconditional. We want to support you both in meeting your congregation's needs as well as your desire to offer local assistance.

Here is our proposal. We are offering a gift to all 125 of our congregations, based on church membership figures. We wish that we could do more, but the Presbytery has limited resources. However, thanks to your congregation's generosity in support of the Presbytery, and thanks to the good stewardship of our leaders and committees, we are ready for this "rainy day" and able to offer this:



For congregations with 100 members or less - \$1,500
For congregations with 101-300 members - \$1,000
For congregations with 301 members or more - \$500

The total sum for these grants is \$149,500. In full transparency, this money will come from several sources and all committees with oversight of the funds have fully embraced this plan:

- ❖ Settlement funds from a departed church
- ❖ A fund for Disaster Relief controlled by General Council
- ❖ Interest from a “small older churches” fund held in trust for us by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation
- ❖ Specific funds held by the Church Development and Evangelism committee designated for Transformation and
- ❖ Accumulated interest from the Better Together Fund.

Our plan is to mail these checks on May 1, 2020. If we do not hear from you, we are going to presume that you are willing to receive this gift and use it for any financial uncertainty your congregation may be facing or to help members of your community. If, for some reason, you would prefer not to receive it or feel you do not need it, please be in touch with the Presbytery office (800-683-9999) no later than April 29, 30³⁰. If you elect not to receive it, the Presbytery will save your proposed grant for the next “rainy day” we face together.

Above all, you continue in our prayers during this most difficult and disjointed time. We are glad and grateful that, even and perhaps for such a time as this, we’re able to demonstrate once again the strength of being a connectional church. Truly, we are better together.

On behalf of your General Council,



Rev. Peter D. Crouch
Chair, General Council



Rev. Dr. Stacy Ikard
Moderator



Elder Dr. Carlos Baladez
Moderator-elect



Rev. Monica Smith
Chair, COM



Rev. Dr. Bart Roush
Chair, Trustees



Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson
General Presbyter



Rev. Dr. Tricia Tedrow
Stated Clerk