



2012 Mission and Per Capita Funding for the Presbytery of San Francisco

A STATEMENT REGARDING WHY IT IS VITAL THAT
PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONS SUPPORT PRESBYTERY OPERATIONS



Presbytery Funding, the Reality

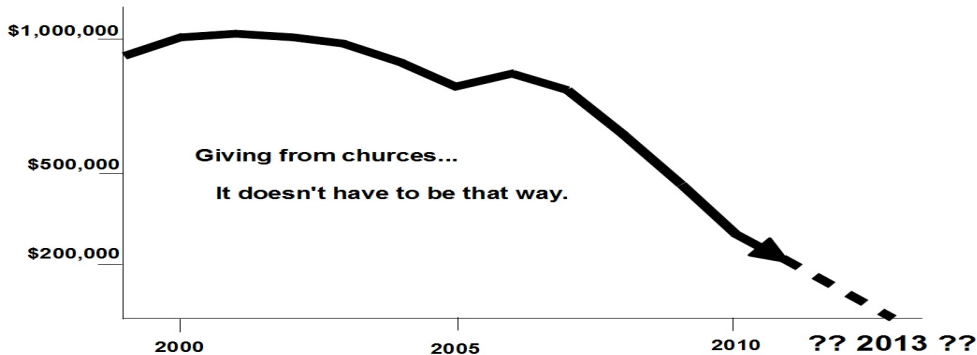
What are the two main sources of funding for presbytery from congregations?

PER CAPITA is assessed on each active member of each congregation and has traditionally been used to support certain aspects of presbytery work and associated staff costs; and

MISSION GIVING has traditionally been used to support aspects of the presbytery's work largely related to underserved populations and developing congregations.

It takes BOTH streams of money to accomplish the goals of the presbytery.

Unfortunately, following larger trends across the country and across all denominations, more and more individual churches choose to direct their mission dollars to programs of their own choice. As a result, **Mission Giving to Presbytery has declined at the rate of about \$100,000 per year.**



Though the Presbytery has reorganized itself, eliminated staff and some committees, consolidated the work of other committees, and reduced its budget by 10% each year over the last three years, **church giving to the work of Presbytery no longer funds the actual cost of doing that work.**

Funding for the Presbytery supports Presbytery Goals and Mission

(adopted at Presbytery meeting April 2009)

Our focus is to renew our relationships with God and one another through intentional prayer, worship, and community-building so that we may faithfully engage in service to God. In the midst of this renewal of relationships we will engage in the following areas of activity:

- I. Creating partnerships with congregations to serve as the primary community for the growth of Christ's disciples in their service to the world.**
 - Builds a connectional church that connects us in relationships with each other, the larger denomination and synod, and the global church
 - Encourages the nurturing of new congregations and mission partnerships between congregations
 - Supports and resources Sessions in mission studies and pastor search
 - Refers ministers as interim and designated pastors and stated supplies
 - As needed, mediates between ministers and congregations with problems
 - Assists congregations in finances and funding buildings and property

- II. Nurturing relationships with minister members to serve congregations in fulfilling their mission.**
 - Provides for the nurture and support of ministers
 - Prepares and oversees new pastors for ministry
 - Connects ministers with new ministry opportunities
 - Provides disciplinary oversight for pastors and elders
 - Advises ministers on pensions, salaries and benefits and provides for those in need

- III. Expanding the understanding of our diversity and our gifts to become a healthier body of Christ.**
 - Supports developing congregations in underserved areas within Presbytery
 - Funds and supports new church developments: Concord Hispanic Expansion New Church Development; Brazilian New Church Development; Portuguese Language Outreach
 - Funds disaster assistance and other mission grants and programs
 - Provides opportunities to work with people across the diversity of the presbytery

So What is the Presbytery Per Capita Apportionment?

There is often confusion about the nature of per capita contributions. Per Capita is essentially “what it costs to be a Presbyterian,” apart from the costs of each individual congregation. Each member of a Presbyterian congregation contributes a proportional share of the approved Presbytery budget plus the amounts to support our connectional functions through Synod and the General Assembly.

Here’s how it works:

Each year, the three governing levels of the Presbyterian Church (Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly) prepare budgets and vote to set the level of per capita required to fund each level of governance.

For example, for 2010	
Presbytery voted a budget that requested from each member of a Presbyterian church in the Bay Area (with 24k members, that’s about \$400k)	\$16.68
GA voted a budget that required from each member of a Presbyterian church in the U.S. (with 2.5 million members, that’s over \$15 million)	\$ 6.15
Synod voted a budget that required from each member of a Presbyterian church in the Synod of the Pacific (with 103k members, that’s over \$500k)	\$ 5.17
So the presbytery approved a per capita contribution per member at	\$28.00
<u>The actual cost per capita required for presbytery programs plus GA and Synod contributions was</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>

The assessments due Synod and GA are paid by Presbytery whether individual churches pay their share or not. This results in other churches paying for those churches who don’t or can’t pay their share. Any withholding of per capita creates a penalty for local Presbytery mission but has NO impact on the policies of the national church.

Here's what happens when churches don't pay their per capita

In 2010, Presbytery of San Francisco churches failed to pay per capita on the equivalent of over 2,600 members (some churches made partial payments, some made none.)

This means that:

**The Presbytery paid General Assembly \$6.15
for each unpaid congregant member out of the mission giving
from sister churches for a total of \$16,000**

**The Presbytery paid Synod \$5.17 for each
unpaid congregant member out of the mission giving
from sister churches for a total of \$13,700**

AND

**The Presbytery lost \$16.68 for each unpaid congregant
member \$44,000**

This total loss of \$73,700 adds up fast. It results in the cancellation of grants and other projects.

Since 2003, the total amount of unpaid Per Capita is \$232,000. The projected amount of unpaid Per Capita for 2011 is also expected to be about \$74,000.

Any congregation unable or unwilling to pay their fair share forces the presbytery to make up the difference by drawing on its reserves; cutting services and program for that year and/or using the mission giving from your sister churches to make up the difference.

In the past decade, the presbytery has used all of these strategies to cover the per capita shortfall, and there is no remaining reserve money to draw upon.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The budget that Presbytery approved for 2011 was for approximately \$1.2 million dollars, requiring about \$40.00 per member.

But Presbytery voted for a Per Capita assessment of only \$28.00 per member. This left 2011's budget with a \$280,000 shortfall.

Leadership Council will propose that 2012's budget deficit be funded in a three way process:

- 1/3 of the money to come from a 10% reduction of Presbytery staff costs with a corresponding reduction in services;
- 1/3 to come from internal sources such as bequests or assets
- 1/3 to come from an increase in Per Capita of about \$3 per member

As your Session prayerfully seeks to discern 2012's budget, please take into account the cost of the full mission of the Presbytery, including its new church developments and its developing congregations. This too needs to be considered part of your mission giving as a congregation.



You can participate in the ministry of the presbytery by being aware of and concerned about the witness of the church and by actively sharing in that witness.

If you would like to volunteer to work at the Presbytery office in Berkeley, please call 510-849-4393.

If you don't fund your presbytery, no one else will.

**Cover Photos by Judith Anne Ott
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