

Dear Committee, Working Group, and Team Members,

Thank you again for serving the Presbytery of San Francisco. You are one of over 90 volunteers serving our committees, working groups, and teams. As we have been updating our lists, you may have already or next month will receive a copy of the financial report(s) for your committee/working group/team. As a presbytery, we share in the resources, both tangible and intangible, that God has given us, and as a committee/working group/team member, you help us become better stewards of these resources.

When you receive the financial report, you may look at it with a fiscal eye:

- making sure the budgets are not overspent,
- making sure the budgets are spent on what they should be spent on,
- and perhaps even look towards the future on how our fiscal resources can be saved or used in future years, as we create a new yearly budget.

Another approach to looking at the financial report would be to think about our unique call as a presbytery (vs. a church, synod, nonprofit...) and how the money is spent or not spent to fulfill this call.

The [Book of Order](#) section G- 3.0301 reminds us that like all presbyteries, the Presbytery of San Francisco has been given the unique charge, responsibility, and power to:

- “provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.”
- “provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.”
- “nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.”

We are also guided by our Presbytery of San Francisco mission to celebrate, nurture, and serve our communities by our life together in Christ while fulfilling our four priorities to:

- support congregations,
- nurturing ministers,
- develop and support new worshiping communities and
- facilitate regional partnerships.

In all of these goals, we, as a [Matthew 25 Presbytery](#), join with other Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, presbyteries, and synods in our commitment to:

- build congregational vitality,
- dismantle structural racism, and
- eradicate systemic poverty.

These principles influence decisions around our priorities, our budget, and our relationship with God, creation, and each other. For we strive to be a Presbytery that when people talk about us they say, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in

prison and you came to visit me.” ([Matthew 25:35-36](#))

As you receive your next financial report, this may be a good time to talk about the goals of your committee/working group/team and how they relate to our calling, mission, priorities, and Matthew 25. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or your staff liaison.

With gratitude and in partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a trailing flourish.

[Rev. Karen Thistlethwaite](#),
Transitional Associate Executive