

April 3, 2025

Greetings in Christ,



If you attended last week's virtual Presbytery meeting, you had a first-row seat to how our connectional church listens to and acts upon guidance of the Spirit. You witnessed as we wrestled with amendments and considered exceptions, validated calls, and remembered saints who have gone on before us. Tucked in between the recognizing of colleagues transitioning to new roles and discerning the call process for another, you heard from Rev. Jeri Fields, chair of Leadership Council, regarding mission giving.

As you know, National Capital Presbytery has two budgets: Operating and Mission. The Operating Budget is primarily funded by per capita and the Mission Budget is primarily funded by unified mission giving donations, aka mission giving. As the final 2024 Mission Giving numbers were reviewed, both the Budget & Finance Committee and Leadership Council felt that it was important to come to you, the body, with the results. For 2024, we projected we would receive \$386,000 in mission giving, a 4% decrease over 2023. We actually received \$326,600, which was a 19% decrease over 2023 giving. Fortunately, our Budget & Finance Committee closely monitors giving numbers and was able to alert committees in the fourth quarter of last year so that that were able to reduce their spending.

Because of the significant drop in 2024 donations, we feel it is prudent to proactively reduce mission spending in 2025. Already, our mission committees are working to reduce projected spending by 6%. We plan to review this in April/May against donations already received to determine if further cuts are warranted. Depending on how that review goes, there may be a need to bring a revised Mission budget to the May Presbytery for approval.

None of our congregations are immune to the shifting economic landscape; nor is the Presbytery. Despite uncertainty, we remain committed to our mission of empowering our congregations to be missional, pastoral and prophetic. One of the key tools we have in living out this mission is our Mission Budget which is responsible for grants to congregations, grants to leaders, allyship training, discernment work, presbytery-wide youth activities, college ministries, congregational vitality tools, new worshipping communities, and the list goes on and on! We ask that you hold our Mission Budget in prayer as we reflect and discern the most faithful response to a reduction in resources.

If you have any questions regarding our budgets or our giving, please feel reach out!

Blessings,

Heather Deacon