

# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

## FROM THREE STREAMS, ONE PEACE RIVER

In 2011, the Board of Trustees of Peace River Presbytery created a subcommittee to examine the system of Per Capita and Unified Giving that supported the Presbytery budget for many years. The subcommittee examined many alternatives and finally recommended this three-part approach to revenue for the future.

### The Three Streams include:

1. Missions
2. General Assembly and Synod Per Capita
3. Presbytery Ministry Operations

### Why Three Streams?

For years, Peace River Presbytery functioned with Per Capita and Unified Giving as the principal sources of revenue. Per Capita supported the facility maintenance, utilities, and insurance, and the basic business operations of the Presbytery but was never sufficient to cover all the business functions. Unified Giving provided funding for covenant partner support, personnel costs, leader training events, clergy workshops, debt service on future church sites, and many other Presbytery activities.

A functional system that satisfied the Presbytery's needs? Certainly! But our churches had difficulty seeing just where their contributions were being used.

The Board of Trustees/Finance Team came up with a plan to classify revenue into three different streams in the hope that the flow of cash through the Presbytery's financial records will be clear, obvious, and informative.

If you have questions, please contact:  
Charmaine Ponkratz, Presbytery  
Treasurer, ponkratz@comcast.net  
or  
Melana Scruggs, General Presbyter,  
melana@peaceriverpresbytery.org

## THREE STREAMS ...



Dear Churches and Members,

Your church and the other 34 churches ... are Peace River Presbytery. The Presbytery is also clergy, covenant partners like Mision Peniel, Cedarkirk and Beth-El, and an array of teams, committees, and talented people dedicated to connecting you with the other churches and enabling your ministry. Together we are the Body of Christ in southwest Florida, and together we can do amazing things for God's mission in the world.

At the core of Presbyterian governance is the understanding that churches are bound together in a covenantal relationship for mutual accountability and support in service to the mission of God.

Presbyterian polity has its roots in the experience of the early church where we see leaders (elders) coming together in councils for discernment, prayer, encouragement, and mission.

While the mission and ecclesiastical responsibilities of a presbytery are many, the primary focus of a presbytery is in support of the work and ministry of its constituent congregations. Without congregations there is not a presbytery, but without a presbytery there cannot be a Presbyterian congregation.

Our Presbytery's purpose (mission / vision statement):

To assist and support congregations,  
to connect disciples in mission,  
and to be the body of Christ together.

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY  
PO Box 510179, Punta Gorda, FL 33951  
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WWW.PEACERIVERPRESBYTERY.ORG

# FROM THREE STREAMS, ONE PEACE RIVER

2025

## PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Peace River Presbytery's revenue flows from 35 churches whose gifts combine to make possible the Presbytery's mission and ministry. The faithfulness of our churches as they give of their treasure requires that the Presbytery make every effort to show how that treasure is used to further God's plan for this part of the Kingdom.

## MISSION



The Presbytery will prepare and publish a Mission Budget that will ask each church to pledge its support for our covenantal partners and provide that support through the Presbytery. Designations to specific Presbytery Mission projects will certainly be accommodated although we hope you will give to the broader Mission Budget to leave the Presbytery the flexibility to support all the projects in the Budget.

The Mission Budget will include:

- ◆ Support for Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Misión Peniel, Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center, and other covenant partners,
- ◆ Support for Synod Missions,
- ◆ Functions of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force including financial support for FLAPDAN, the Florida-wide disaster response network affiliated with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Increased clarity in the use of funds contributed by our churches may lead to larger gifts to the Mission portion of the Presbytery budget. If that is the case, the support for Beth-El, Misión Peniel, Cedarkirk, and our other mission projects will be increased. Any mission gifts over and above the Mission Budget will be used to enhance our assistance to these missions.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SYNOD



The Per Capita requested by General Assembly and Synod will be apportioned among the churches according to the membership reported on the 2023 Statistical Report. Per Capita remitted to the Presbytery as a result of the apportionment will be sent directly to General Assembly and Synod. None of these funds will be retained by the Presbytery.

### 2025 Per Capita Requested:

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| General Assembly:        | \$10.85 |
| Synod of South Atlantic: | \$ 1.50 |
| Total:                   | \$12.35 |

Per Capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid-level councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA Minutes, Part 1, 1995).

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY PER CAPITA BUDGET

The Per Capita Budget of the General Assembly principally provides for the cost of holding G.A. meetings, expenses of the permanent and special committees of the General Assembly, the Office of the General Assembly (including the historical function and the Office of Ordination Exams), General Assembly Council meetings, the Council Office and some staff, and comparable expenses to our memberships in ecumenical bodies. These funds also support the work of Church Leadership Connection, which helps churches find pastors in the PCUSA.

### SYNOD PER CAPITA BUDGET

The Per Capita Budget of the Synod is used to fund the Synod's legislative and judicial business and ecclesiastical functions, including the Office of the Stated Clerk, which enable the Synod to plan, oversee and evaluate its mission and the administrative functions necessary for the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

## PRESBYTERY MINISTRY OPERATIONS



The Presbytery Ministry Operations portion of the revenue budget will provide for equitable compensation for our dedicated staff, the ministry of the Presbytery, including functions required by the Book of Order, ministry carried out by the Presbytery in the course of its regular activities, and the administrative costs of these activities:

- Steering Committee
- Communication, Connection, and Community Committee
- Committee on Ministry
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Finance Committee
- Human Resources Committee

In summary, the following examples show how the Presbytery connects its member congregations and brings value to the whole body:

- ◆ Grants for technology upgrades were made available to all member congregations. These grants assist the congregations with being able to live-stream worship services and classes, thus being the "Church in a Virtual World". Training to make the virtual services the best they can be was also made available through the Presbytery's membership with *Worship Design Studio*.
- ◆ Our Committee on Ministry and Presbytery staff have worked closely with many pastoral search committees and congregations in transition.
- ◆ During the recoveries from Hurricanes Milton, Helene, Debby, Idalia, Ian, Irma and Charley, large grants were applied for and received from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help member congregations.
- ◆ Support and training for pastors, staff, and sessions in a changing church culture.