

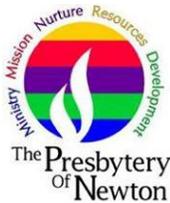
PER CAPITA



We've all heard about the Per Capita our churches pay yearly, but just what is it? In general it is one of the main ways we live out who we are as Presbyterians. We are a connectional church, and the Per Capita allows us to pool our resources to do many more ministries, missions and programs than any church could possibly do on its own. These dollars are part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together, and allows us to work not only with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery, but also in our Synod region (the northeast), across the country, and in partnership with other Christian churches around the world. It is how we covenant together to be the larger presence of the church. The Per Capita in 2015 is **\$33** that churches pay through their presbytery for each Active Member of their congregation.

Presbytery Portion of Per Capita (\$21.93)

Our Presbytery of Newton, according to most pastors I've spoken to, is one of the best in the country. We are collegial, effective, well administrated, and helpful to our churches. We offer New Thing Grants to help congregations try out new ministries. We offer educational opportunities for our pastors to grow and stay fresh. We oversee new pastors-in-training, coordinate missions we collectively undertake and offer a number of support groups and study groups for the pastors in our presbytery. Our Per Capita provides for staff, including a Presbytery Leader (Jeanne Radak), a Financial Administrator (Liz Hutchinson), an Office Manager (Sonja Gaertner), a Resource-Media Coordinator (Stefanie Muntzel) and a Stated Clerk (Diane Curtis). This team sees to it that our churches and presbytery stay focused, connected, trained, supported, and effective.



Synod Portion of Per Capita (\$4.00)

Our Synod of the Northeast (covering NJ up to the top of Maine) has a number of ministries and programs that our Per Capita dollars support. Newly ordained pastors participate in the Early Ministry Institute, and churches looking for Interim Pastors use those who have undergone Interim Training from the Synod. Many ecumenical relationships are maintained at this level of the church. Presbytery leaders and executives are supported through the Northeast Collegium, Synod meetings are covered by these dollars, and we are able to engage in larger conversations at this level (including the Conversation on Race, Mediation training, coaching network and other ministry opportunities).



General Assembly Portion of Per Capita (\$7.07)

Our General Assembly meets every other year where representatives of each presbytery gather for worship and to discern God's will for the church. The Per Capita covers that meeting's cost, as well as provides for producing the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions* that we use, as well as ecclesiastical and administrative functions that are shared by the whole church. For more on what Per Capita funds at the G.A. level, go to: https://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/percapitasupport_2014.pdf.



Conclusion

Per Capita is how we covenant together to be the larger presence of the church in the world known as Presbyterian. Paying our Per Capita keeps us strong at all levels of the church, and allows us to be Christ's presence in local, regional, national and even world-wide ways.

*Communications Committee
of the Presbytery Coordinating Team,
Newton Presbytery*