

Statement to the Presbytery: 2021 Budget

We are especially thankful for the generous giving of our congregations. Your Per capita and mission giving remain strong, funding the relational and missional network of the Presbytery of Carlisle as we navigate ever-changing conditions.

The 2021 budget reflects income figures based on the giving patterns we saw as 2020 ended. Expenses reflect adjustments made as the forms of the work of the presbytery continue to shift:

- Office Expenses are significantly reduced, with a down-sized office footprint, utility costs built into monthly rent, and staff who work, in part, from home.
- Personnel expenses are down, with retirements of two long-serving staff members and adjustments in the scope of the new positions.
- Krislund support is slightly reduced, as we engage in a presbytery-wide conversation about the role and relationship of the camp, relative to the needs, challenges and opportunities of our congregations.
- Committee expenses are reduced, since most of our work is done in digital spaces, eliminating costs like travel, food, and paper.
- We have also reduced our use of paper and postage, as most presbytery-wide communications are sent in electronic form.
- The budget line called “Transformational Partnerships” is intended to support work (provided pandemic conditions allow) with congregations that will lay a foundation for discernment of a guiding vision for a post-pandemic presbytery, grounded in a common understanding of our congregations and the communities we seek to serve.

With all of these reductions, why give?

We know our congregations are making similar adjustments in their budgets, and that you all face the same kinds of questions and uncertainty about funding your ministry and mission.

So...what **will** our churches need, in a post-pandemic world?

Just as the leaders and congregations of the presbytery learned to navigate this pandemic together, so we will need each other, as we figure out what it takes to move into God’s future.

The strong giving of our congregations will allow the presbytery to take up roles such as:

- Cultivate the capacities of leaders for agile, vital, sustainable ministries
- Build partnerships and coalitions that engage the gifts of congregations for the sake of those most vulnerable around us.
- Create learning experiences, and foster on-going experimentation that lead toward new forms of Christian community, reaching across generations, races, cultures and creeds.
- Strengthen and focus our Presbyterian witness to the gospel, especially in light of the crises of our day.