

April 14, 2021

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to everyone who replied to our letter seeking guidance about Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Mackinac. Some of you even shared copies, so we received multiple responses from the same church. Thank you!

Almost half the churches in the presbytery responded in some way, which was a real blessing. None of the five options received a unanimous “yes” or “no.” The two of us have met to try to form a fair representation of the general feelings.

Everyone recognizes that both distance and age pretty much prohibit trying to plan presbytery-wide gatherings. However, there was overwhelming support for the idea of encouraging churches to work together in their own geographical area, and a couple of groups have already started making plans. How wonderful!

Many of you wanted to see some form of a newsletter, and this is what we’re suggesting: Please send news of the great things you’re doing to Raeann Dunlop in the Presbytery Office ([office@presbymac.org](mailto:office@presbymac.org)), and she can include them on the website and in the presbytery newsletter. We’ll also try to share the highlights of news at the synod and churchwide level.

Most did not want to try Zoom gatherings, largely because of a lack of computer skills and internet access. However, feel free to use this technology on a local/regional level as best fits your situation.

The last two options really had to do with finances. Some churches are quite strong supporters of the mission work of Presbyterian Women, but most prefer to work through a presbytery PW treasurer who channels your offerings as you desire, so that you don’t have to submit contributions separately to various offerings and groups. Sarah Juntune is willing to continue acting as the Presbytery PW treasurer for a while at least, so please continue sending her your contributions (address below), clearly stating the intended recipients as you have been doing (Mission Pledge\*, Least Coin, Thank or Birthday offerings, Honorary Life Memberships, Theological Education, Presbyterian Hunger or Disaster Funds, etc.). If you are supporting particular Mission Workers, it’s best to send that support directly to the PC(USA), so you have a personal connection to those people.

\*The Mission Pledge offering will be distributed as usual. Unless a church specifies otherwise, 80% goes to support the mission projects of PW churchwide (including *Horizons* magazine and the exchange programs), and 10% each goes for Mission Projects in the Synod and Presbytery.

The bottom line of all this is that we are not 100% ‘disbanding,’ but we will no longer be keeping presbytery-wide PW records (except financial), and we will not try to host a gathering. For the time being, Florence (as Communicator) will still

share relevant information she receives from the synod and church-wide PW via the presbytery website and newsletter, and Sarah will still function as Treasurer. Although we no longer need to collect monies for the operating fund, there is still money in that fund. One suggestion for its use has been to give modest support to area-wide gatherings of neighboring churches for speakers and other expenses. Money has also already been budgeted to give support to the churchwide exchange programs (global and domestic). You are welcome to suggest other uses for these funds until they are depleted.

Please thank all the women in the your congregation for all they do in Christ's name, and let's stay in touch as much as we can.

Blessings and Peace,

**Florence Morrison**  
(231) 223-7159  
[FlorenceMorrison@aol.com](mailto:FlorenceMorrison@aol.com)  
14068 Bay View Avenue  
Traverse City, MI 49686

**Sarah Juntune**  
(231) 533-9403  
sarahjuntune@gmail.com  
PO Box 1072  
Bellaire, MI 49615

Open Letter to all the women in Mackinac Presbytery  
Please read and consider prayerfully, and respond with your thoughts.  
Feb. 15, 2021

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We are writing to let you know some of what's been going on with women in the Presbytery (we tried to reach someone at each church for information on local activities) and ask your help in deciding where we go from here.

Officially, PWP (Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery) is in a holding state: we have a Communicator (Florence Morrison in Traverse City) and a Treasurer (Sarah Juntune in Bellaire) but no other active members of a board and no presbytery-wide activities.

The last Gathering was in 2019 in Iron River, and it was very well organized, although attendance was limited to just a couple of UP churches. Individual churches have continued to do some wonderful activities in their own communities, but many of the members of local PW groups are not comfortable making a longer trip for a gathering, and that's understandable. Almost all groups are finding it difficult to attract younger women; family life has changed (even many years before the pandemic), and the need for women to be employed outside the home has put a major strain on groups like PW and family life in general.

We want to provide a little background on the financial aspect, as several women we talked to felt PW was mostly about raising money. Presbyterian Women is an independent mission-oriented organization and is not tied financially with the PC(USA). While still supporting programs like the Birthday and Thank Offerings as well as special programs like the Hunger Fund, some groups have felt they didn't want to support the Mission Pledge because they didn't agree with some aspects of the national church.

However, none of your pledge money is sent to the national church. Unless a group specifies otherwise, the Mission Pledge amount is designated as follows: 80% for Presbyterian Women's Churchwide programs (including publishing *Horizons* magazine and the Bible Study and mission exchange programs), 10% for mission programs in the Synod, and 10% for mission programs in the Presbytery. In other words, your Mission Pledge monies are used for Mission Programs. We have asked you to include an additional 10% for PWP operating expenses (this used to be called the 'contingency fund'), which support women to be participants in the churchwide Global Exchange Program, the domestic USA Mission Experience, and attending the Churchwide Gatherings every three years. These women can then share their experiences with our local groups.

We want all the women in the presbytery to feel supported and connected. Reading *Horizons* magazine and using its Bible Study can help with a churchwide connection,

but it would also be nice to have more connection with women in our own presbytery – or at the very least with those in our own area of this vast presbytery. Here are some ideas that have come up:

1. Some groups are really doing amazing things and could combine with neighboring congregations for both programs and activities, so there's no need for much travel and yet still have fellowship outside the congregation.
2. We could reinstate the PWP newsletter to share your ideas. We could include some national PW news and events, but the focus would be on our presbytery, and that would mean you'd need to have someone report periodically so we can share what you're doing. (Especially in this pandemic time, fellowship and community are so very important, even on paper!)
3. We could set up a "Zoom Gathering" with a short presentation and then discussion (although we know not everyone has access to the internet).
4. We could basically disband but continue to use the Treasurer to get your contributions to their designated areas, so you don't have to be writing multiple checks to multiple places. (Please see the next part for more clarifying details.) Anything you send to Sarah is sent on to the exact places you have designated: Thank and Birthday offerings, Honorary Life Members, Least Coin, etc.
5. We could totally disband and send you the information on where to send contributions.

We would like to encourage each congregation to establish a connection (both personal and financial if possible) with a PC(USA) Mission Worker somewhere in the world. Since PW is not financially connected with the national church, we also don't provide general support for Mission Workers, many of whom are struggling to be able to continue their work, and some of whom can no longer be supported at all. These servants often do God's work in very poor circumstances and need our support.

After thinking and praying about all these issues, would you please respond to the attached questionnaire? (Feel free to call either of us with questions or comments.) You can email it or snail mail it to either of us, but we hope to get responses by March 15. We'll then report back to you. (If you can include an email address, it will help a lot since many church offices are at least partially closed these days, but we can certainly mail a copy as well.)

With gratitude and wishes for peace and blessings,

Florence Morrison  
(231) 223-7159  
[FlorenceMorrison@pcusa.com](mailto:FlorenceMorrison@pcusa.com)  
14068 Bay View Avenue  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Sarah Juntune  
(231) 533-9403  
sarahjuntune@gmail.com  
PO Box 1072  
Bellaire, MI 49615

**Response to the PWP Open Letter**  
(Please respond as soon as you can)

- 1) Church name: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Of the 5 ideas given, I definitely do support number(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Of the 5 ideas given, I definitely do NOT support number(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) I would also like you to consider this idea:

Please give your personal contact information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this as an email or on paper to either Florence ([FlorenceMortenson@asl.com](mailto:FlorenceMortenson@asl.com)) or Sarah ([sarahmortenson@asl.com](mailto:sarahmortenson@asl.com)) (other contact information in the letter above).

**Thank you for all your help!**