

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), and she can include them on the website and in the presbytery newsletter. We’ll also try to share the highlights of news from 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 of you 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 (via the presbytery website and newsletter) relevant information she receives from the synod and church-wide PW, 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,

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