



# Presbytery of Great Rivers

*We are called to share Christ's love by partnering in service, uniting in worship, and risking in ministry.*

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October 1, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your church begins its budgetary planning for 2019, the Presbytery gives thanks for your ministry in your community and beyond. This letter is a challenge to your church to continue its Presbytery partnership by submitting your 2019 per capita and your 2019 shared mission pledge. Through these two channels, your church has the power to sustain the common ministries of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

The per capita amount for 2019 is \$34.22 per member, an increase of \$2.22 over 2018. It will be distributed as follows: \$8.95 (up \$1.22) will be sent to the Office of the General Assembly, \$3.81 will be sent to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and \$21.46 (up \$1.00) will remain with Great Rivers where it will be used to underwrite the regular expenses of our Presbytery's operations. In other words, it is used to cover the cost of our common meetings, the work of our small Presbytery staff, and the Visioning Team grants to churches. Facing a deficit of more than \$130,000 in the 2018 budget, the Administration Team, who has worked hard to cut costs (almost \$78,000 compared to 2018), has asked for a small increase in the per capita for Presbytery. As can be seen on the attached sheet, Great Rivers has the lowest per capita of all the Presbyteries in the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Even with the \$1.00 increase our income in 2019 will continue to fall below the 2018 income level and our deficit is projected to be almost \$60,000.

But God's work through your generosity goes on. Shared mission giving offers your church the opportunity to work with others in creating ways to help people as the included examples of common ministries explain. Reports of these ministries are shared with your pastor and Presbytery Assembly commissioner.

Each church decides where its shared mission dollars will go. We hope that you will prayerfully consider the Presbytery Assembly's suggestion to apportion your shared mission giving in the following way: apportion 42.5% to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (formally known as General Assembly Mission Council), 5% to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and 52.5% to the Presbyterian to support its mission.

We hope you find the following attached documents useful:

1. Examples of Shared Ministries that the churches of our Presbytery have supported.
2. Per capita supported by churches. **Your church is highlighted.**
3. A per capita remittance form. We hope that you will remit the amount of per capita **highlighted** in the Per Capital Supported by Churches document (#2 above).
4. Shared mission pledge form. Please indicate how much your church will contribute to our Presbytery's ministry.
5. A list of Presbytery grant programs that churches use to fund their own mission programs. **Your church is eligible to apply for one or more of these grants.**
6. Per capita chart showing where the Presbytery of Great Rivers ranks with the other Presbyteries within the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

If you have questions or comments about per capita, shared mission or common ministries, please contact me at (309) 258-4015 or [bnc.sbridge@gmail.com](mailto:bnc.sbridge@gmail.com).

Bill Strawbridge, Presbytery of Great Rivers Treasurer