

VISIONING TEAM REPORT

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Join the Presbytery of Great Rivers & Our Congregations in the Presbyterian Week of Action, August 24-30

Our presbytery's mission statement faithfully proclaims: "We are called to share Christ's love by partnering in service, uniting in worship, and risking in ministry." This year, our February assembly meeting, our presbytery took the step of living into this mission by joining the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s **Matthew 25 initiative**. Along with committing to build congregational vitality and eradicate systemic poverty, we have answered the call to actively work to dismantle structural racism.

For justice to roll down like water, we need to keep joining together in every opportunity we can to move that justice forward, and so our presbytery's Visioning Team encourages each of our congregations to engage in the upcoming **Presbyterian Week of Action**.

Please join with us in engaging our congregations in this denomination-wide event. Will you share with your community about why Black Lives Matter? Will you engage in the week's events? Will you share the Week of Action posts from the denomination? If your congregation has been engaging in antiracism work in your own, unique ways, will you share about it so the presbytery can hear what you've been doing? In whatever ways we are able to join in, let us engage in this good and holy work together as a presbytery. We look forward to hearing how congregations have engaged when we gather for our Assembly Meeting that Saturday.

To discover more about the Presbyterian Week of Action, including a schedule of events and a digital toolkit, visit www.pcusa.org/weekofaction.

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 24-30, 2020

**PRESBYTERIAN
WEEK OF ACTION**



New! PRESBYTERY TOWN HALLS THIS SEPTEMBER VIA ZOOM

During February's assembly meeting, our presbyters participated in a visioning process. With the guidance of our Lead Presbyter the visioning team evaluated the data and identified patterns that emerged. We think it is now time to ask your help in participating in town halls via zoom to continue visioning this September. Understanding that this pandemic may have changed our previous plans - our hope is that we can gather in town halls to solidify "why" – our values – as a Presbytery going forward. We recognize that we are experiencing an unprecedented time in our lives and we need your help to continue this important work. We invite all our churches and members to participate in the Zoom Town Halls this September – the specific dates and times, along with zoom invites, will be announced soon! Follow the Presbytery of Great Rivers Facebook page and sign-up for the Presbytery of Great Rivers e-Newsletter at www.greatriverspby.org/newsletter for the town halls and other important news.

Shared Mission Grants Awarded

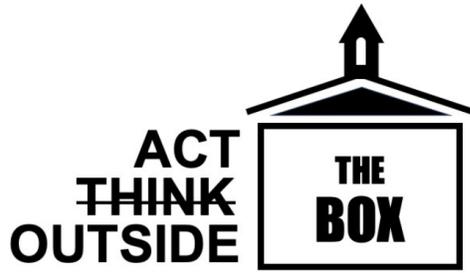
The following application was reviewed and approved:
Bucks for Blessings - \$1,000 – St. Luke Union, Bloomington, IL YMCA emergency day care site.

SHARED MISSION GRANTS

The Presbytery of Great Rivers Visioning Team is excited about how God is working in congregations across the Presbytery. There are several shared mission grants available for your church to apply to this year. Please help by sharing this with your church staff, session, deacons, etc.



New! Outside the Box Seed Grant: If you have ever had a mission-minded ministry that does not fit the current Presbytery grant criteria, then this is the grant for your church. We are limiting the restrictions; however, it should be a new ministry that is outward-focused and mission-minded. Since we are in an unprecedented time. The challenges of the Coronavirus are impacting all aspects of our community life. As Christians and as leaders within our presbytery, we need to use our God-given "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love" to re-envision how to be the Church in this rapidly changing context. So, what does that look like for your church and our presbytery? How can we be responsive to the developing needs of our local communities and our world? How might God be using these challenging times to teach and refine us as followers of Christ? Our



visioning team is dedicating 1/3 of our Visioning Grant budget (\$20,000) toward these outside the box seed grants!

Worship Initiative Grant: (Uniting in Worship) The Visioning Team wants to encourage churches to take worship to the community and find ways to worship outside their buildings. To that end, a \$500 grant is offered to churches that develop a plan to take worship outside the church.

Mission Initiative Grant: The new Mission Initiative Funding Application (MIFA) is for projects and programs that represent a mission initiative for a church, and may be granted for \$5,000 for the 1st year. The project may be funded for a lesser amount for two additional years as explained in the guidelines.

Bucks for Blessings Grant: (Partnering in Mission) A Bucks for Blessings is available for up to \$1,000 for each PGR member church who partners with another congregation to do something that is a blessing for their community. The partner church does not need to be a PGR member. If the partner is PGR, and the project budget warrants, then the PGR partner may also apply for a grant, too.

Church Consulting Grant: (Risking in Ministry) The Visioning Team wants to encourage churches to engage the services of church consultants that will help congregations identify and live into their mission, vision, and values and/or identify a transformation process. To that end, a grant of up to \$2,500 is offered to churches who employ an approved church consultant.

Sabbatical Grant: The Presbytery of Great Rivers' Visioning Team has approved a new Sabbatical Grant program aimed at helping pastors and churches with the cost of a sabbatical. The PGR Sabbatical Grant is available to PGR pastors currently serving a church who are planning a Session approved sabbatical. Pastors may request up to \$2000 to help with sabbatical related expenses, and up to \$500 to help the church with expenses related to the pastor's absence during the sabbatical.

For grant applications: www.greatriverspby.org/mission

Please send grant applications by October 13, which is one week prior to the next Visioning Team meeting. We want to help you through the grant process. If you have any questions, please contact: Presbytery office (309) 683-6980, or Visioning Team Vice-Chair, Carol Sleeth cisleeth@comcast.net or (309) 692-2595.

