

Mission Questionnaire Summary of Responses

Thank you to all the Sessions who responded to the Presbytery's Vision Task Force Questionnaire. We received EXCELLENT number of responses. We're sharing a summary of those responses so you can see the scope of mission through local churches in our presbytery, maybe get some ideas on what churches are doing that work, and see the cumulative effect of our individual church's mission outreach. It's impressive! The task force did assemble a list of what specific missions each church which responded is doing – that list is 10 pages long. Provided here is just a sampling of the more unique and "hands-on" mission activities. Many surveys encouraged calls to their church offices to be put in touch with the person who can explain how they do the mission work they do. Churches are happy to share their know-how with others wanting to start similar programs!

| Q1 – What's your church's Mission Passion? | Q4 – What shareable knowledge does your church have about doing mission? | Q5 – Ideas for Presbytery to better support mission | Q6 – Topics helpful to congregations/ to encourage Presbytery attendance | Q7 – other suggestions for Presbytery |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement and service • Youth Workcamps • Adult Int'l mission trips • Doing what is needed locally • Financial support for local missions • Helping the sick and poor • Youth and community needs • Supporting world missions/mission workers • Outreach to veterans • Support Troops • Young children – education, food insecurity • Hunger, both local and global • Hands-on mission • Support local elementary school • Community VBS • Food Pantry • Christmas Dinner • AA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating a homeless shelter • Assistance to smaller churches in operating a website/social media • Wide experience in global missions, esp. Yucatan • Youth workcamps • REACH workcamps • working with mentally & physically challenged • Ideas for small mission projects • Knitting in the Word • Family Promise Support Church • Ideas for fundraising – smaller church • Working with Social work intern for community engagement • Weekend Food Backpack Program • Outreach to veterans • Embracing diversity • SERRV Fair Trade sales • Providing soft-sided luggage for foster kids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand BiWeekly to include more success stories • Cross promote mission activities that other churches might engage in • Facilitate sharing of missions done by congregations • Minutes for Mission/Workshops by our own mission experts shared with other churches • More info about situations where people need help • How to reach out to unchurched, or who have walked away • Contact us when mission workers visit the Presbytery • Showing interest, stimulating publicity • Offer joint mission programs or speakers for churches in close geographic areas • Quarterly accounting reports for payments on validated missions to ensure payments of special offerings are not missed • Con ed in accessible mission opportunities • Become involved with Camp Westminster • Outreach ideas to attract millennials to small churches • Support Mission to the USA & Thumb churches implementing it • Making connections between similar context churches • Volunteer recruitment – mission in place, but lacking people to fully staff it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success stories from churches at each presbytery meeting • Speakers that bring first-hand experience re: issues (racial issues, refugees, etc) that cong. have narrow perspective, or limited exposure to. • Stewardship • Age-ing/complacency • Overseas missions • Worship music w/o prof. musician (small church) • Millennials • Conflict resolution skill training • Tasteful use of tech. in worship • Outreach (new members) • Older adult ministry • Small church ministry • Topics facing GA – helping us be better informed • Elder training • Clerk of Session training • How to be active/responsive Deacon • Effective committee leadership • More presbytery mtgs to allow more actual engagement of the issues by participants • Sharing of unusual programs or specific initiatives that could be replicated in small, graying congregations • What does a traditionally relevant church look like? • Individual church mission experiences/opportunities • Fundraising; grant-writing/opportunities • How to determine where the money goes in financial support of missions, and if it's doing what the cong. hopes it's doing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A few responses indicated they don't know how info makes the BiWeekly and how to subscribe, or of its existence</i> • Be more "in" the local churches, speaking with boards, developing relationships and confidences • Electronic record keeping • More businesslike Presby. Mtgs and shorter – spiritual needs are met in local church • Rent a billboard on i-75 "Got Church" w/PCUSA logo and Presby. Website • Encourage gatherings of small churches • 4 presbytery is pretty responsive and BiWeekly good communication tool • Make available list of CREs for pulpit supply (<i>available CREs are on pulpit supply list</i>); support these new scholars by promoting their placements • Note that COM Rep has not visited a particular session in years – is that still a practice? |

“Hands-On” and Unique Mission Activities in the Presbytery

This is just a sampling – a few missions from each church. Excluded from this snapshot: financial support for missions including mission co-workers and Special Offerings; 2 Coins a Meal, etc; providing meeting space for groups; basic needs assistance have been omitted for the sake of space; well known organizations such as Samaritan’s Purse, Habitat, Scouts, Food Bank etc., also omitted. Guesses were made as to what might be “hands-on”, or unique. For full list, email Katja Gruening: PastorKatja@gmail.com.

Lapeer

Locally: Refuge homeless shelter; Greeting cards which are recycled and sold, often to non-members for \$0.50; Brown Bagger’s men’s group that meets once a week and often has non-members join in fellowship; Entertainment for folks in local nursing home

Globally: Little Dresses for Africa

Bay City First

Locally: Youth – Hands and Feet annual local assistance event – clean, help, paint, any way they can assist; Community Ministries - Lenten and Advent Concerts; Summer Worship services at the riverside park; Blue Light service to honor fallen policemen; Hosted/organizational help for youth workcamps to Bay City

Globally: Yucatan Mayan mission trip; Malawi, Africa – gathering, packing, sending full shipping container to this needy area. 2 week-long Workcamps in other states

Bay City - Westminster

Locally: Provide duffel bags for children being placed in foster care; Assist Flint Water Crisis; Assist Power of Dad, a ministry to teach and mentor fatherless children about forgiveness and faith

Globally: Appalachian Service Project trip in 2016;

Beaverton

Locally: Baby pantry, Lions Club, Boots & Shoes Program, Nursery School, Crazy Heart Quilters, Christmas for Kids Program, Helping Hands Mission, etc.

Birch Run

Locally: Brown Bag Program, East Side Soup Kitchen/Hidden Harvest, Emmaus House, Flint Water Crisis, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Shoeboxes for Saginaw,

Globally: Congo Water Project, Heifer International, Kiva, PDA, Women at Risk

Croswell

Locally: Coats for Kids, Free Food Truck, Emergency Food Bank, Abused Women’s Shelter, Baby Pantry

Davison – St. Andrew

Locally: Family Promise of Genesee County; Food Bank – monthly food packaging teams; My Heart Supports the Troops; Talent Bazaar donations make gifts of hats, gloves, scarves, clothing, food, fellowship, prayer

Globally: financially/prayerfully sponsor a young Ethiopian girl; service, donations, funds, and prayer support for a mission in Honduras in conjunction with the Otterbein Methodist Church in Indiana.

Fenton - Tyrone

Locally: Family Promise; Crop Walk; Visiting local nursing homes; Michigan Fish Program; Wood Street Free thrift store

Globally: World Mission; Children annually purchase farm animals;

Houghton Lake

Locally: Crop Walk; Wesleyan Baby Pantries; Shop with a Hero; Hospice of Munson; Food Bank; St. Vincent DePaul Christmas Family Program; Artesia Youth Park; Camp Westminster

Marlette 1st

Locally: Eva's Place, Caring Hearts, Comfort Quilts, Free Lunch, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas gift cards for school, project graduation

Globally: Ludwigs – gift for kids at Christmas

Marlette 2nd

Locally: Eva's Place, Caring Hearts, Walk for Warmth, Backpack Program, Comfort Quilts, Support youth going to camp, Alma Youth Mix, Triennium

Globally: Money to Haiti Water Project, Kileys year in Uganda, Ranchers in fire area; support girl through ACT

Midland-Memorial

Locally: (huge # of organizations supported; not listed); Operation Fun Summer Day Camp; Sneakerpalooza; DHS Snow Boot Buddies and food gift certificates; His Hands Auto Care; Church World Service; CROP Walk; Neighborhood Revitalization; Women Build; GROUP Work Camp; InterVarsity (Delta college and SVSU); Imagination Library

Globally: Czech Republic Mission Project; Agape Community Transformation (ACT) Uganda; Mexico Water Project; Costa Rica Partnership; Bethlehem Project; Free Trade Coffee Project; Church World Service Blankets and Tools Offering; Tri-City Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

1st Pres. Saginaw

Locally: Ecumenical Food Pantry at FPC

Globally: Ludwig's Mission in Niger

Tawas Area Pres.

Locally: Bell ringers for Salvation army; Pass our Free water at Farmers Market and art Fairs in summer; National Day of Prayer walk in our community; Drop Off Location for Coats for Kids and Toys for Tots;

Globally: 175+ Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse

Vassar:

Locally: Vassar Food Pantry; Veterans in need; Backpack program (food insecure children);

Globally: CROP Walk; REACH Work Camps

Flint – Trinity United

Locally: Healing Space (A place where the community can come to get help with job search); clothing for children at 3 elementary schools; furnishing a room for Esther House (a maternity care center being rehabbed); host two tax training programs in the fall and the participants offer free tax prep around the city

Cass City - Fraser

Locally: Bay Shore Camp; Same Historical 10 (financial support)

Globally: ShoeBox – Samaritan's Purse

Cass City – First Pres.

Locally: Presbyterian Pantry; Challenge Fund; Revive

Mt. Pleasant 1st

Locally: house Isabella Child Development Center; Isabella County Restoration House – rotating homeless shelter; Community Compassion Network; Feeding Children in the Park; CROP walk; Meals on Wheels; House the Sea Cadets; pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House; returnable cans/bottles to help the hungry

Globally: PDA; Souper Bowl of Caring

Saginaw Countryside Trinity

Locally- Church's own Samaritan Fund; Underground Railroad; Weiss Elementary School backpack program; Emmaus House; Second Saturday breakfast Program; Caps for newborns; Turbans for cancer patients; Forgotten Man Ministries; used eyewear for Lion's club;

Globally- CWS Blanket Sunday; CROP walk; UNICEF; Heifer Project;

2nd Pres. Saginaw

Local Hands-On: Provide lunches for Saginaw Rescue Mission 1 Sunday/month; school supplies, outerwear for local schools; Old Town Christian Outreach Clothing and Baby Pantry; Rescue Mission Hope and Care Totes; Forgotten Man Ministry; Hand-Sewn items for local shelters; **National Hands-On:** Christmas stockings for Send Santa to the Troops; Military Care Boxes for members serving

Globally: Sell SERRV Fair Trade Merchandise

Sandusky Pres.

Locally: Food Backpack program through Food Bank (we support 75 elementary students); Jr/Sr. High "Giving Closet" at the high school (food, basic clothing, toiletries, cleaning products, feminine hygiene, school supplies)

Yale 1st:

Locally: Julie's Kids (local children's charity) – donations, financial support; Volunteers to staff ReSale Store;

Rosebush

Locally: Youth For Christ; TTLM; Forgotten Man Ministries

Mundy Pres. Swartz Creek

Locally: local school support – clothing for children in need; food baskets, mitten tree;

Globally: support the troops