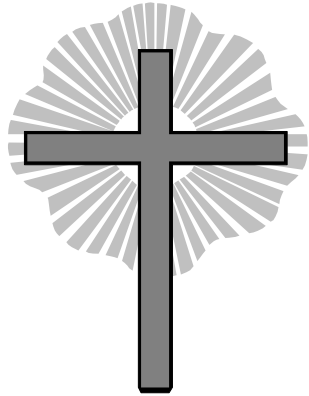


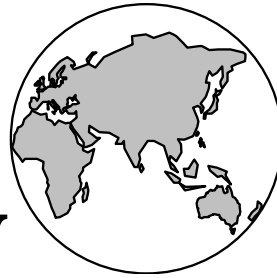
**NORTHMONT**  
United Presbyterian Church



**2007**

**Mission**

**Directory**





Produced by the  
Mission Ministry Committee



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## **NORTHMONT MISSION BEGINS WITH YOU**

(Reasons for Giving, provided by William Paul, Pittsburgh Presbytery, 1/94)

There are at least seven reasons why Presbyterians can and must give financial, prayer, and personnel support for the local, regional, and global mission of their church.

First, Presbyterian mission is **FAITHFUL**. That doesn't mean it is done perfectly or "successfully". It means our mission grows out of our response to God's grace in Jesus Christ. "*We love because he first loved us*" (1 John 4:19). The Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study describes a mission enterprise that is broad, relevant, and faithfully done.

Second, Presbyterian mission makes a **DIFFERENCE**. It brings Christ's love and hope to people all over the world. Because of what we do together, blind receive sight, despairing find hope, hungry are fed, lonely are welcomed, sick are restored, lost are found, and poor have good news preached to them. Our church's mission makes a difference because it combines words and actions after the model of Jesus himself.

Third, Presbyterian mission is **ACCOUNTABLE**. Decisions that determine what the church does in mission and how it does it are formulated, recommended, adopted, and reviewed annually by representative committees elected at every level. In this process, Presbyterians participate in the birth and shaping of what eventually becomes mission policy and program. We may not always agree on how mission money is spent, but we know how it is spent, where it is spent, and we are involved in the deciding.

Fourth, Presbyterian mission is **CONSISTENT** with who we are. What we do in mission is not an individualistic or voluntary enterprise. It is the purpose of the whole church as the body of Christ. It is what God calls us to do as we live and work together through our connected governing bodies (Session, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly).

Presbyterian mission has been guided by certain principles. One principle is that mission is initiated, developed, and administered by the least inclusive governing body that can do so most effectively. Another is that each governing body is responsible for mission in its geographical area and done in light of the strategy developed by governing bodies covering larger geographical areas.

Thus, the Presbyterian system is designed to minimize competition for the available mission dollars between governing bodies. It assumes missionaries and mission projects have more important tasks than spending time and energy raising money for their own support. Presbyterians believe the most effective mission is carried out by governing bodies when they cooperate in the spirit of partnership.

Fifth, Presbyterian mission **ENHANCES** the dignity and self esteem of people. The aim of our mission is to liberate people by furthering their self-development. It is designed to help people help themselves. It fosters the establishing of churches which are self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating. In so doing, Presbyterians attempt to be sensitive to the long-term welfare of those with whom we are related.

Sixth, Presbyterian mission is **COST-EFFICIENT**. Support of our mission program is one of the very best dollar values for charitable giving. Conscious efforts keep support services and promotion expenses to a minimum. Recent estimates of these costs for the Presbyterian Church are between 12 - 16%, which compares favorably with other non-denominational mission agencies.

Seventh, Presbyterian mission is **ESSENTIAL** to our identities as Christians. Discipleship implies mission. The "Confession of 1967", following its description of what constitutes faithful mission, concludes: "*So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord*". Mission is the evidence that our confession of faith in Christ is valid. It is the sign that the community of Christians is not just a pious club, but is, in fact, the church of Jesus Christ.

The support of the church's mission is not optional for Presbyterians. It is the purpose for which the church exists. The quickest and surest way to cripple a congregation or denomination is to withhold generous support for its mission.

When the church, following the example of its Lord, pours out its life and resources into service, channels are opened through which God's presence and power flow into its life and work. That's why the most alive congregations are those involved in what God is doing in the world beyond their own doorsteps.

## **PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY**

Northmont gives 40 percent of its Mission and Social Action funds to Pittsburgh Presbytery. Presbytery's annual budget of three million dollars supports twenty-five community ministries:

1. Allegheny County Literacy Council, Inc./Christian Literacy Associates
2. Allegheny Valley Association of Churches
3. Breachmenders Ministries
4. Christian Life Skills
5. Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
6. East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM)
7. East Liberty Family Health Care Center
8. Hosanna Industries
9. Lydia's Place Inc.
10. Mulberry Senior Citizens Center, A Program of WCM
11. North Hills Community Outreach
12. North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center
13. North Suburban Adult Services
14. Northside Common Ministries
15. The Open Door
16. Orr Compassionate Care Center, A Program of EECM
17. Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute
18. Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries
19. Presbyterian SeniorCare
20. Samaritan Counseling Center
21. Schenley Heights Community Development Program
22. Sojourner House
23. South Hills Interfaith Ministries
24. Ventures in People Program
25. Wilksburg Community Ministry (WCM)

**Mission Direction**  
**of the**  
**Mission And Social Action Committee**  
**2007**

The Mission Statement of Northmont United Presbyterian Church is stated in the Report of its Planning Commission of 1998 as:

*“Our mission is to reach out in Christian discipleship to people throughout the world, in our community, and within our congregation through: caring ministry, spiritual growth, and Christian fellowship.”*

To fulfill Northmont’s stated mission to the local community and the world at large, the Mission And Social Action Committee has established the following Direction:

“We will expand our support of mission, both globally and within our local communities, and increase our focus on social action within the local region.”

The long term objectives, through which the Mission And Social Action Committee intends to pursue its stated Direction, are:

- A. *Provide opportunities for all members to participate in local missions.*
- B. *Serve the needs of those with physical, emotional or spiritual needs.*
- C. *Provide frequent opportunities for all members to participate in national and global missions.*
- D. *Develop a program to actively recruit membership to participate in the Church’s mission and social actions.*
- E. *Define measurable goals for church member participation and assign responsibility.*

The following missions are supported by Northmont United Presbyterian Church through the funds provided to its Mission Ministry Committee:

## 1. BETHLEHEM HAVEN

Bethlehem Haven provides shelter and supportive services to homeless women. The continuum of care consists of a range of housing and supportive services designed to enable each woman to identify her needs, develop a plan of action, and work toward successful outcomes.

Residential programs include:

- An emergency shelter for up to 28 women.
- Transitional housing and supportive services for up to 20 women.
- Permanent housing and supportive services for up to 16 women in Allegheny County who have multiple episodes of mental health related homelessness.

Services are available on-site through the following programs:

- Health & Wellness Center - provides medical, podiatry, and dental care for homeless women and men, and obstetric/gynecological services and women's health education for homeless women.
- 902 Clinic - provides group and individual mental health services for homeless women and men.
- Project Employ - provides individualized life skills, professional development, job training and supportive employment for homeless women and men through professional occupational therapy services.

## 2. BREACHMENDERS

Breachmenders is dedicated to providing decent, affordable housing, youth activities and employment training, and community development in partnership with the people of West Oakland and the Hill District neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, as a demonstration of Christ's reconciling love. For over twenty-two years Breachmenders Ministries has developed an array of programs and services to benefit and empower the people in those neighborhoods. Its current programs include:

- Housing Development Program – renovates single family homes and sells them to low-to-moderate income first time buyers.
- Apartment Management Program – manages a 30-unit apartment building and three single family houses in West Oakland for low-to-moderate income families.
- Labor Free Repair Program – provides 50% to 70% discounts off the cost of needed home repairs for low-income homeowners throughout the City of Pittsburgh.
- School-to-Career Program – prepares young people living in the neighborhoods of West Oakland and Oak Hill become competent, confident, contributing citizens in our society, in a center for collaboration among family, school and community.

- Neighborhood Advocacy – mobilizes the residents of West Oakland and Oak Hill to partner with Breachmenders and other community organizations to revitalize their community.

### 3. CHOSEN

CHOSEN (Christian Hospitals Overseas Secure Equipment Needs) is a non-profit, charitable organization serving ecumenically in the collection and distribution of hospital equipment and medical supplies for overseas missions. Established in 1969, CHOSEN is a ministry serving the whole Christian Church, working interdenominationally to advance health care in economically deprived countries. In addition to supplying millions of dollars worth of new and renovated equipment, CHOSEN volunteers and staff travel the world installing and repairing equipment, developing and teaching training programs, and providing instruction in operating room procedures.

### 4. CHRISTIAN LITERACY ASSOCIATES

Christian Literacy Associates is committed to reaching functionally illiterate adults and children throughout the world, by helping them develop the reading skills necessary to operate in a complex technological society. CLA also works to expose the individual student to the message contained in the Holy Scriptures through the example and witness of a Christian tutor, as well as through the basic Bible-content reading materials and supplements.

The Christian Literacy Series, a Bible-content basic reading program for adults and children, was originally tested in Southwestern Pennsylvania by the Allegheny County Literacy Council, Inc. beginning in 1975. Christian Literacy Associates was established in 1977 to carry the techniques and material developed in that model program to other areas of the country and the world. Spin-offs of the model program organized by Dr. William Kofmehl, Jr. are now in 40 areas of the country, and literacy primers have been designed for 19 different languages in Africa, India and Latin America thanks to the efforts of Christian Literacy consultants.

There is no charge to the students for the tutoring services and the tutor-training workshops are held with no cost to those attending.

### 5. CRISIS CENTER NORTH

Crisis Center North is committed to assisting victims of domestic violence in the northern communities of Allegheny County through a myriad of resources and services. Ongoing evaluation of programmatic goals and objectives allow Center staff a means of developing effective strategies to interrupt the cycle of violence in those communities.

Crisis Center North also provides thousands of hours of free education/empowerment counseling to adult and child victims of domestic violence each year.

Services are provided to individuals regardless of race, age, gender disability, economic status, or sexual orientation. Trained professionals and volunteers provide services free of charge to all domestic violence victims who request assistance. Those services include:

- 24-hour hotline.
- Individual and group counseling for adults and children.
- Case management services.
- Legal advocacy.
- Medical advocacy.
- Community prevention education programming.

## 6. EAST LIBERTY FAMILY HEALTH CARE CENTER

The mission of the East Liberty Family Health Care Center is to witness to God's love, known in Jesus Christ, by offering quality, whole-person health care to all, especially the poor. They provide whole-person health care by aspiring to minister to every aspect of being human, including body, mind, spirit, heart and social situation. They believe that community is necessary for healing and so work with others (churches, social agencies) and encourage their patients to join healing communities of value to them. Because health care is a ministry in a business environment, they pledge to be as efficient as possible, always giving their first priority to prayerful, clinical judgment of what is needed for healing.

Some of the services they provide are:

- Whole-person primary care for physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
- Adult and pediatric primary care.
- Dental care.
- Drug and alcohol outreach/relapse prevention.
- Homebound elderly outreach.
- Homeless outreach and medical clinic.
- Lab Services.
- Medical Care – Urgent.
- Obstetric/Gynecology services and Pre-natal care.
- Psychology and counseling services (individual/family).
- Social work/Pastoral Care services.
- Christ-centered spiritual support.

## 7. ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

The Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (Oikocredit) is a worldwide cooperative society, dedicated to promoting social and economic justice by challenging people, churches, nonprofit organizations, and others to share their resources through socially responsible investments and by empowering disadvantaged people with credit. Oikocredit makes low-interest loans to more than 480 cooperatives and microcredit institutions in over 65 countries. In 30 years, Oikocredit has circulated millions of dollars and returned all loans. Today Oikocredit is the largest international private provider of microcredit in the world.

Oikocredit believes that poor people can build themselves a better life, if only given the chance. If only given credit.

## 8. FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP

The mission of the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF) is to challenge, mobilize and empower Presbyterian congregations into global partnerships that establish indigenous churches among unreached people groups.

Most of the world's 6+ billion people do not live as isolated individuals. Rather, they identify themselves with a particular tribal or ethnic group. Each of these groups has its own language and customs. Although these groups may live near one another in the same country, they are often separated by barriers of language or by age-old animosities and prejudice. Therefore, a church planted in one people group will not necessarily be welcomed by or be interested in reaching out to a nearby group. A distinct missionary effort must be made in each of these unreached groups. This particular mission focus, often called frontier mission, leads the church to address those groups of people among whom the Gospel has had little or no meaningful exposure or reception. The focus is on people groups, not geographical nations.

These groups live in every country in the world, including the USA. The Presbyterian Church (USA) is moving forward to identify some of these people groups and to develop ways to reach them with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The vision which guides the PFF is summarized as follows: *For Every People: An Indigenous Church. For Every Church: A Mission Vision.*

## 9. HEARTH

HEARTH is a nonprofit organization for homeless mothers and their children serving the greater Pittsburgh area. They provide transitional housing for women with as many as four children at a residence called Benedictine Place. There, women learn to become independent and economically self-sufficient. Their mission is to create a continuum of care that empowers families to become independent, self-sufficient and adequately housed. HEARTH's vision is that every family and individual should be able to live in safe, affordable housing.

## 10. HOSANNA INDUSTRIES

Hosanna Industries has provided new construction and rehabilitation services as a means to alleviate poverty since its inception in April 1990, as an outgrowth of the mission program of the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, Pennsylvania.

Hosanna Industries constructs new homes in one week's time for qualifying families. These "Blitz Builds" are made possible with volunteer labor, donated and discontinued materials and goods, and a uniquely organized building method which compresses the average length of home construction into one week.

The organization's daily work involves rehabilitating existing homes. Through the help of donations, volunteers and a capable staff of mission workers, Hosanna Industries is able to provide such services as roof repair, siding repair and handicapped accessibility features, to name a few. Qualifying low and very low-income families often find they need Hosanna's services to keep their homes habitable and to maintain residency. These services are normally provided at no cost to the homeowner so they may use monthly income for other necessities such as food and clothing.

No matter what type of project Hosanna Industries undertakes, they attempt to help uplift community spirit and awareness for both the client and the surrounding neighborhood.

## 11. INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

InterVarsity, an interdenominational campus ministry in the United States, traces its roots and name to Great Britain and to a spiritual awakening among English students at Cambridge University in the 1870's. In 1941, InterVarsity became incorporated in the United States. IV serves over 35,000 students on 560 college and university campuses nationwide.

The purpose of InterVarsity is to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture, and God's purposes in the world.

## 12. LUTHERAN SERVICE SOCIETY / MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Since 1968 the mission of the Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania Meals-On-Wheels program has been to assure that no senior citizen goes hungry. Working through 78 affiliated kitchens they serve 2.2 million individual meals every year. In addition to meeting basic nutritional needs, Meals-On-Wheels helps older adults and persons with disabilities stay healthy and independent.

## 13. MALAWIAN PARTNERSHIP

Following a 1989 visit to Africa by the Mission Unit of Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Mission Unit began to pursue the possibility of establishing a partnership with an African church. After a period of negotiations between Bill Paul of Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Rev. Silas Ncozanna, General Secretary of the Synod of Blantyre in Malawi, a partnership agreement was signed in 1991, first in Blantyre on April 21 at the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels, and then in Pittsburgh on May 23 at the Central Presbyterian Church in McKeesport.

*According to the Covenant of Partnership Agreement God's Word tells us that "two are better than one because they have a good return for their work." It goes on to say that "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken." We, the representatives of the Synod of Blantyre and Pittsburgh Presbytery, pledge ourselves to each other in a partnership of equals in which Jesus Christ is the "third strand" who binds us together.*

During the past sixteen years, nearly 500 Pittsburghers have traveled to Malawi, and we have housed an equal number of Malawians. The visits have involved relationship building, education events, pastoral exchange, evangelism rallies, medical mission work, and building construction.

## 14. MARS HOME FOR YOUTH

Mars Home for Youth was founded in 1878 as the United Presbyterian Orphan's Home, when members of the Fourth United Presbyterian Church of Allegheny City (now Pittsburgh's Northside) accepted the challenge to care for several orphaned children. In 1929, the home moved to its present location on 140 acres in southwest Butler County. In the 1950s the United Presbyterian Orphan's Home was renamed the United Presbyterian Home for Children as its emphasis began to change from caring for orphans to caring for children from broken homes. During the 1970s the mission of the home shifted to serving the special needs of troubled and abused children and youth. Today, Mars Home for Youth serves the special needs of abused, neglected and troubled youth and their families in residential, educational and community-based programs

## 15. NEW WILMINGTON MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Since its beginning in 1906, the New Wilmington Missionary Conference for young people has emphasized Presbyterian mission, to encourage a deep spiritual life of fellowship with God by promoting service and witness for Jesus Christ. In addition to the annual conference in July, teams of college-aged youth are sent all over the world through summer service. They return to share how God worked in and through them.

## 16. NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES

Northside Common Ministries is a community-based organization that was established in 1982 by a collaboration of 30 independent, local churches. These individual congregations recognized the plight of economically disadvantaged people in poor urban communities, that became so evident in Pittsburgh after the decline of the steel industry. These concerned individuals pooled their creative, human, and financial resources to form NCM with the purpose of addressing the needs of the homeless and hungry in Pittsburgh, and on the Northside in particular.

NCM programs include:

- Pleasant Valley, a 24 hour/7 days per week emergency shelter for homeless men, with the ability to serve from 25 to 30 men; its goal is to not only serve the men's immediate needs, but also to provide a foundation for reversing the adverse conditions of their lives.
- The Community Food Pantry, which is the largest in Pittsburgh; distributes approximately 300,000 meals per year to qualified low-income individuals and families; the food pantry serves approximately 600 income- and residence-eligible, Northside households per month.
- A Permanent Housing program that supports 11 men with disabilities who have transitioned from homelessness into their own apartments; because most of these clients require long-term case management and supportive services, this program is a pro-active, labor intensive effort that requires dedication and specific collaborations with several external agencies and organizations.

## 17. NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 1986, when flooding ravaged portions of the North Hills, local religious and community leaders worked together to help the flood victims. This effort mobilized the community into action so that resources offered by congregations, businesses, civic groups and individuals were directed to the affected families. As a result, North Hills Community Outreach was incorporated in 1987 as an organization of people helping people.

NHCO is an interfaith nonprofit organization that addresses the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of people in crisis, hardship and poverty. They provide information and education, make referrals and facilitate access to resources to bring immediate help in a manner designed to preserve the dignity of individuals and families and to demonstrate the love of God. The vision of NHCO is that Northern Allegheny County be a community where everyone shares with their neighbors in hardship, and no one is cold, hungry or forgotten.

#### 18. NORTH HILLS FOOD BANK

The North Hills Food Bank is a member of the North Hills Community Outreach Food Pantry Consortium. It operates out of Hiland Presbyterian Church on Perry Highway, and it serves the North Hills, Ross and West View.

#### 19. NORTH HILLS YOUTH MINISTRY COUNSELING CENTER

The North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center is a non-denominational community service organization that provides family, marital, individual and group counseling, along with preventive, educational and advocacy services. Its faith-based mission is to help youth and families improve communication and spiritual values within the family system. From troubled children, teens and young adults, to married couples and entire families, NHYM Counseling Center helps to enrich life and relationships by facing and resolving significant issues. Its prompt, personal services are readily available to anyone – regardless of financial status or ability to pay – and based on an affordable, sliding scale method of payment for services.

#### 20. NORTHMONT SERVICE PROJECT

The Mission and Social Action Committee provides financial support for members of Northmont, particularly for the youth, to enable their participation in service oriented projects and mission camps.

#### 21. PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Through the Mission and Social Action Committee budget, the pastor has access to a small fund for use in assisting people in need. Some of these people are members of the church, but many are not. Their need may be as simple as gasoline, a motel room or groceries.

## 22. THE PITTSBURGH PROJECT

Founded in 1985, the Pittsburgh Project is an urban, neighborhood-based, Christian community development organization. They envision Pittsburgh as a City of Truth, where once again, men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets, each with cane in hand because of age, and where the city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there (Zechariah 8:4-5). Their purpose is to develop servant leaders and uphold the dignity of vulnerable homeowners.

To develop servant leaders they operate a progressive series of Youth Development programs in which North Side children and young people grow academically, relationally, and spiritually, and become prepared to transform culture and to serve neighbors. They also develop servant leaders from among participants in their Service Camps, helping them become agents of renewal in their neighborhoods, schools, and home churches.

To uphold the dignity of vulnerable homeowners they provide Homeowner Services which include free home repairs, visitation, and links with social services and local churches. They focus on homeowners who may be economically in need and at risk of eviction and homelessness, those who are isolated and devoid of social resources, or those who are in poor health due to advanced age, illness or disability. They work to ensure that every vulnerable homeowner is able to live in a safe, healthy, and accessible home, with all the social networks needed for optimum living.

## 23. P.R.I.S.M.

The objective of Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries (P.R.I.S.M.) is to offer evangelical hosting, pastoral counseling, and intercultural education experiences to international students and visiting scholars studying at universities in the Pittsburgh area. Dr. Carl Templin founded P.R.I.S.M. in 1980. It is located in Bellefield Presbyterian Church in Oakland, easily accessible to most of Pittsburgh's colleges.

Among the many things P.R.I.S.M. does for the international students:

- Holiday hosting – cultural exchanges with American families.
- Tours, picnics and dinners – meeting new friends and visiting historical sites.
- Conversational English classes – especially designed for the spouses of international students.
- Garage Giveaway – held in late summer when school starts, and offering at no charge, things needed to furnish an apartment.

#### 24. SCHOLARSHIP: YOUTH FOR NEW WILMINGTON

Northmont Presbyterian Church provides support for its youth and for the New Wilmington Missionary Conference by making scholarship funding available for young people to attend the Conference.

#### 25. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND (TEF)

Basic to the history of organized Presbyterianism in this country is the commitment to the importance of an educated ministry. The 11 theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (USA), including the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in East Liberty, continue to provide spiritually committed and theologically informed persons who are skilled in the practical aspects of ministry. Voluntary contributions from congregations to the TEF, and contributions and/or bequests made by individuals to the Theological Schools Endowment Fund, are the only sources of denomination-wide funding for these seminaries.

#### 26. WORLD MISSION INITIATIVE

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has a long history of involvement in preparing men and women for world mission. One of the early professors of the seminary, Elisha Pope Swift, was also the key leader in the founding of the Western Foreign Missionary Society in 1831 in Pittsburgh. Through the years, Pittsburgh Seminary has prepared many men and women who have gone out to serve in mission around the world. The seminary has also prepared national leaders from overseas partner churches.

In early 1996, recognizing that the changes sweeping the world and impacting the church necessitated innovative structures to continue the mission of Jesus Christ, pastors, missionaries, and church leaders met with denominational officials, seminary faculty, and administrators at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. They held discussions, prayed, and strategized about ways to support the work of local congregations in world mission. From these initial meetings, the World Mission Initiative (WMI) was born.

#### 26. MISSIONARIES IN ETHIOPIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Northmont directly supports two missionary families: the Wellers in Ethiopia and a family in the Middle East.

The Wellers are long-time missionaries who have worked in Ethiopia since 1994, when they responded to a call from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) to teach in the Gidada Bible School in Dembi Dollo. Since then they have responded to many other requests and have changed responsibilities several times. Reverend Michael Weller serves on the Administration Board of the Mekane Yesus

Church. He continues to serve on the board of the Gidada Bible School, helping with funding and planning, as well as working on evangelism and leadership development within the Presbytery. His wife Rachel, a registered nurse, serves as coordinator of the Health Department of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod. The Church runs three clinics in the area, all of them started 40 years ago by Presbyterian missionaries.

Our family in the Middle East, while having extensive experience in local and global mission, has only recently embarked on their first long-term overseas mission assignment. They were sent to the Middle East by World Horizons, a relatively young sending organization headquartered in Wales. World Horizons concentrates on countries in the 10/40 Window, that is, countries between 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, where the largest number of non-Christians live. The organization is focused on church planting and is distinguished by its strong emphasis on prayer, which is fundamental to its strategy for advancement of the Gospel to the unreached.

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Stephen ministry is ...

1. A ministry in which one person reaches out to another in times

Of

Loneliness

Depression

Becoming new parents

Being ill or hospitalized

Being strangers in town

Going through a time of grief or crisis

Working through some problem or concern

... to name just a few of the possible situations

2. A relationship on a weekly basis with a person who has received 50 hours of intensive training in many helping skills and who will visit you, listen to you, offer resources if those are needed, pray with you and offer Christian support.

Stephen Ministers are not ...

Professional counselors or psychologists

Ordained ministers

Experts in law, finance, etc

Stephen Ministers are...

Caring, supportive Christian people who have a desire to be with you in times of need.

## **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

### **1. BIRTHDAY OFFERING**

The Birthday Offering is a special offering collected in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. The offering funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly Mission support, such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns.

### **2. CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to an Advent offering. The General Assembly distributes the Christmas Joy Offering equally between the Board of Pensions, to aid retired ministers, missionaries, and church workers and their families, and the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

### **3. LAZARUS FUND**

The Lazarus Fund was born in 1984 when a downturn in the Pittsburgh economy caused a number of companies to downsize and lay off workers. Pittsburgh Presbytery was challenged to respond to the cries for help echoing throughout Allegheny County. The Lazarus Fund was created to address the concerns among a number of churches that families affected by these layoffs might not be able to meet their basic needs, or have sufficient funds to secure health care for their children. As the need continues, so does the Fund. As it exists today, the Lazarus Fund works with those in need to move them toward longer-term wholeness in all areas of their lives, in addition to addressing their immediate financial needs.

### **4. ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Contributions support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent.

## 5. PEACEMAKING

The Peacemaking Offering supports peacemaking initiatives and peace education throughout the church. It is received by most congregations on World Communion Sunday, celebrated the first Sunday in October. Generally, 25 percent of the offering is retained by each congregation, 25 percent is used by synods and presbyteries, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

## 6. THANK OFFERING

The Thank Offering began when Mrs. Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio urged each woman to give \$1 over and above her usual contribution to the Woman's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "Thank Offering to the Lord". This expression of Thanksgiving is now an important part of Presbyterian Women. The offering, collected in the fall, funds projects such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns. At least 40 percent of this offering supports health ministries throughout the world. The remaining 60 percent funds new creative ideas for mission.

## 7. MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY

Northmont dedicates a special offering on Mother's Day to Bethlehem Haven, and on Father's Day to Pleasant Valley Shelter. Congregants may honor and remember their mothers and fathers through these offerings.

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