

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY
JCP 3rd quarter 2023 Treasurer Report

As I've thought about our connection to Christ's Body – The Church – what has come to mind is Paul's image using our body as a symbol for the connections to The Church.

The image that has come to me is how the presbytery is like our body's spinal column. It is our spinal column that receives and sends signals to the different parts of the body. The spinal column also sends and receives messages to and from the brain. In this image God: Creator, Son and Holy Spirit is our brain. It is our brain that sends signals to all parts of the body, through the spinal column.

So the presbytery serves as that part of Christ's body, which receives and sends.

As treasurer this relates to the financial contributions made to the presbytery and shared with synod and general assembly. Gifts are also shared with local congregations and presbytery as a whole.

We've been doing great things and planning on doing great things with donations shared.

Returning to the image of the body, the body of Christ, each part is significant to the working of the whole. It's not a matter of size, it's a matter of connection. There is one primary way for a session/congregation to decide what to share with the larger Church. This way is the tithe. This could be based on the giving of members over the last month or months. So if members gave \$XX,XXX then a tithe would be \$X,XXX to presbytery (Per Capita and Shared Mission). Presbytery then sends on to Synod and General Assembly their portion (Per Capita as set by Synod and General Assembly and then 10% of shared mission to synod and 20% to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.). The General Assembly then uses their portion to reach out unto The Church around the world.

In the financial reports for this meeting, you'll see one entitled JCP PC'SM'SO 2023 sorted. This is the report of giving by our churches, sorted least to most, using gifts to Per Capita, Shared Mission. It also shows gifts given to the denomination's Special Offerings. I've chosen to sort it by gifts per member, simply because this is one way to look at the giving of our member churches.

What I have found that if all churches gave at least \$120 per member (Per Capita and Shared Mission money) we'd not have to draw from our reserves or at least take out much. We'd pretty much meet our expenses with the gifts shared.

I want to thank the 10 churches that have given over \$70 per member to Per Capita and Shared Mission through the first 3 quarters of this year. I also want to thank the 8 churches that have given more than just their portion of Per Capita (\$40 per member

John Calvin Presbytery
November 4th, 2023

Two Hundred and Twelfth Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Joplin, Missouri

for 2023). Consider a year end gift to help us all participate in the work of caring for all our churches and reaching out beyond our presbytery unto the world.

Then we have 8 churches that have given their share of Per Capita. May you also consider giving at least an equal gift to Shared Mission. This would benefit member congregations and the larger church. 10 of our churches have given less than the Per Capita amount. May they also consider giving all their Per Capita and an equal amount to Shared Mission.

Then we have 8 churches that haven't participated at all. This saddens me. It puts more of the burden on other churches and hurts The Body as a whole.

Recently I heard a pastor friend share with his congregation how members don't share equal gifts yet all can make an equal sacrifice. One congregation's tithe will not equal another yet if each gives a tithe they make equal sacrifice.

As always, I'm available to answer your questions about presbytery's financial statements or even particular line items of the budget.

My contact information: dwinzenried@jcpresbytery.com or via phone 417-546-7103.

Dennis Winzenried, JCP Treasurer

PS some quick notes about this quarters' reports.

On the Balance Sheet you'll see that we have \$187,983.61 in our Great Southern Account. Great amount to have in the bank. Of this \$85,000 is committed. \$35,000 is pass-through the presbytery because of the closing of the Mulberry church. These checks have been written and money sent.

Then on a very positive note we received a \$50,000 gift for the establishment of funds for Rural Pastoral Leadership. This will be added to money we have set aside for the Lay Academy and help rural churches in the days to come. Others could do something similar to help our churches. We give thanks for this gift given. I say all that to say that in reality we have just over \$100,000 in our checking account.

On the Budget vs Actual report, you'll see that we have received \$45,617.60 vs. the annual budget of \$90,000. That is a little over 50% of the budget in 75% of the year. I'm hoping churches will give shared mission year end gifts.