



# PER CAPITA

## COMMITTING TO CONNECTION

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (OGA)

# WHY PER CAPITA

Each year, Presbyterians across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) make a commitment to support one another through per capita giving. This call to generosity is deeply rooted in the values that guide what it means to be a Presbyterian:


**We are a priesthood of all believers.** All people are equally created and called by God to serve God's church. As a part of this call, we share in the responsibility of supporting the church.

**We are a connectional church.** No worshipping community is isolated. Rather, the whole of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is called to work with one another in making ministry possible. Congregations, presbyteries, synods, denominational offices, and more work with one another to offer support, guidance, collaboration, and other opportunities through per capita funding.

**All worshipping communities are equally important and valuable to God's church.** All congregations are given equal access to resources and support funded by per capita. Through sharing of financial responsibility, no congregation is privileged due to their financial capacity.

**We can only be the church with one another.** Through sharing in generous support of per capita and participating in the opportunities per capita funds, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) uplifts and empowers all worshipping communities as an integral part of being the church.

In these and in many other ways, per capita giving is shaped by the call that God has extended for us all to join in the pursuit and formation of God's kin-dom. By gathering together in per capita giving, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) commits to connection and is empowered to live out the ministry of the church.



Per capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church.

REV. DR. J. HERBERT NELSON, II, STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# PER CAPITA MAKES IT POSSIBLE

At its heart, per capita enables ministries that seek to discern God's call and support the health of the church. These ministries reach congregations, mid councils, and assembly work in a variety of ways, including:

- Supporting those called into ministry through the ordination process and equipping both congregations and ministers to discern relationships and calls;
- Empowering mid councils, including Korean speaking non-geographic presbyteries, in equipping leaders and engaging with their communities;
- Holding one another accountable and upholding the constitution of the church through judicial processes;
- Building relationships with ecumenical and interreligious partners to strengthen God's work in the world at-large;
- Preserving the history of the church through the Presbyterian Historical Society, so that we may build bridges between who we have been, who we are, and who we are called to be;
- Embracing the church's support of just immigration through accompanying members and councils as they navigate both joining the church and welcoming into the church;
- Encouraging and equipping leaders to pursue the ministries to which God is calling them through service to assembly committees and mid council roles;
- Pursuing personal and communal opportunities to embrace the diversity of God's creation through church policies and procedures;
- and providing for an equitable and inclusive General Assembly, where members from across the church gather together to discern God's will for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in a worshipful community.



# HOW PER CAPITA WORKS

Commissioners to each General Assembly approve a per capita rate for the next two years. This rate is based on member statistics submitted by mid councils, ongoing work supported by per capita, and any actions taken by the current assembly which require additional financial support. Ultimately, all ministries funded by the per capita rate are the result of assembly actions. This means that per capita serves as the primary funding source for the many ministries teaching and ruling elders have discerned to be integral to the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As per capita is rooted in the vision of each General Assembly, the Office of the General Assembly is the primary home for these ministries.

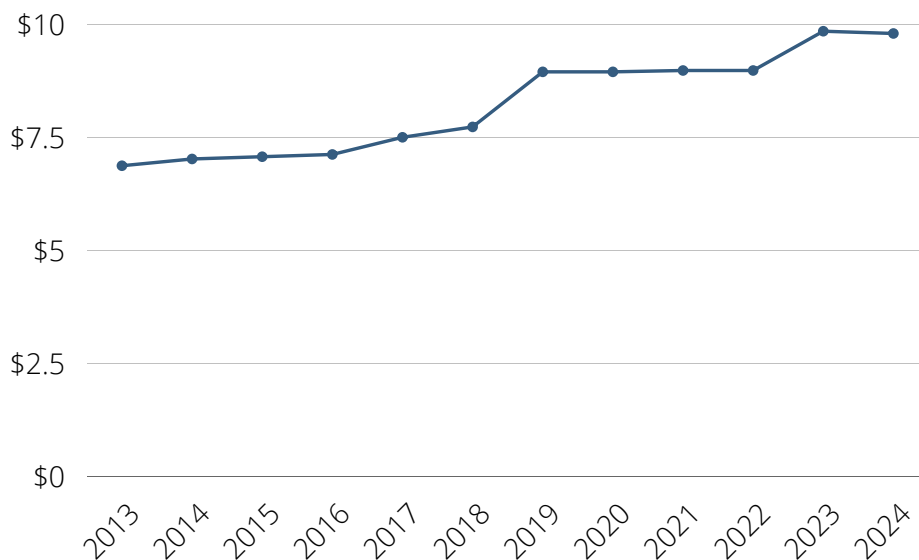
**The denominational per capita rate approved by the 225th General Assembly (2022) is:**

**2023 \$9.85**

**2024 \$9.80**

Following the assembly, mid councils are notified of their per capita responsibility as determined by the number of members in their presbytery. Mid councils then add to the General Assembly per capita rate, their own per capita apportionment. This final rate is shared with congregations and members, allowing all to contribute to the work of the church throughout the councils to which they belong.

Despite the increased demand for innovative support and decreasing numbers of members sharing in per capita, the General Assembly rate has stayed largely consistent over the past 10 years, rising only \$2.93 per member.



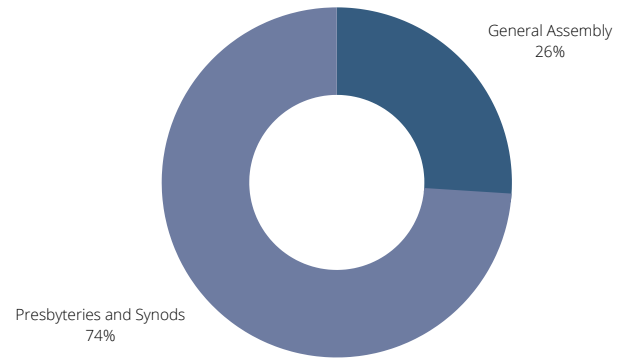
# GIVING TO PER CAPITA

When a congregation gives to per capita, the gifts first go to the presbytery and synod. Each of these mid councils determines the per capita rate for their work and how they allocate denominational per capita from the congregation's overall per capita gift. Typically, the per capita dollars which move through mid councils to the denomination are around 25% of the total per capita given, with 75% going to mid councils and their ministries.

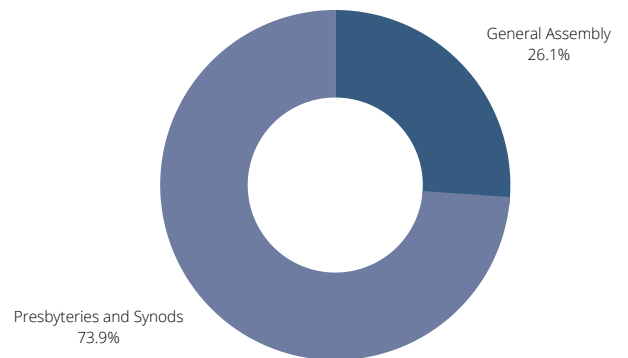
Presbytery leaders who coordinate per capita use an online platform called "Payer Express" which allows for presbyteries to see the per capita total based on their membership statistics, as well as giving history and remaining balances. Staff in the Office of the General Assembly work closely to coordinate this process with mid council leaders.

From there, per capita is used to fund the work of the Office of the General Assembly, as well as some shared efforts with the Administrative Services Group and Presbyterian Mission Agency. Per capita truly is a connectional commitment to the Presbyterian Church (USA) at every level. It is a way to say that this church matters and is called to continue ministry in the world!

2023 Estimated Total Average Per Capita



2024 Estimated Total Average Per Capita



# HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Per capita is about community. It is about committing to connection and support between all members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is about joining together and being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world.

So, how can you make a difference in the life of the church by supporting per capita?

First and foremost, by engaging in your community. Talk about per capita and the impact it has had on your ministry with members of your church. Connect with your presbytery and synod leadership to learn more about the ways per capita enables mid councils to serve. Join with other worshipping communities on January 23, 2023 to celebrate Per Capita Sunday (don't worry- materials for worship are provided on the OGA website!).

There are also many opportunities for you to join with Presbyterians from across the denomination to experience the ministries that per capita funds at the General Assembly level. Whether that includes applying to serve on an elected committee, observing public meetings, or joining the work of the next General Assembly, we pray that you engage deeply with the many ways the Presbyterian Church (USA) is at work in the world.

Your church story is one important thread in the larger tapestry of the PC(USA), and is therefore woven into the story of per capita's work in the church. Let us tell the good news together!



# THANK YOU.

The work of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and in particular the work of the General Assembly, is only possible because members of the church have said they are "all in" and committed to connection through per capita support. It takes all of us together to answer God's call.

Thank you for joining us in ministry.  
Thank you for answering the call.  
Thank you for your support of per capita.

With gratitude,  
The Office of the General Assembly

