

Congregational Mission Team

Purpose

The Congregational Mission Team works with congregations to assess, evaluate, and understand the needs of the community and provide training, support, and resourcing so congregations can meet the needs of their community.

Relationship to the Presbytery

The Presbytery has designated this team to assist with the work that is necessary and helpful for the accomplishment of its mission. The Mission Team is accountable to the Presbytery in carrying out their responsibilities.

What is Necessary: Assigned Book of Order Responsibilities

1. Enable congregations to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in Jesus Christ.
2. Assist congregations in developing mission (in its particular context) and participating in the mission of the whole church (see helpful ways below to fulfill this responsibility).
3. All mission funding should enable the church to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in Jesus Christ, and should strengthen the church's witness to the mission of God.

What is Helpful: Additional Responsibilities

1. Assess community needs
2. Encourage congregations to develop new community ministries
3. Cultivate partnerships between congregations
4. Cultivate partnerships between congregations and community agencies
5. Facilitate the sharing of information and resources between congregations in the area of mission
6. Envision new, creative ways to utilize church property for community ministry
7. Authorize New Worshiping Communities under the auspices of the Presbytery and support those sponsored by Congregations.
8. Communicate the results of new initiatives with the presbytery
9. Provide training and informational workshops to equip congregations for mission
10. Inform and educate congregations about grant sources available to congregations, through the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey, the Synod of the Northeast, the General Assembly of the PC(U.S.A.), and the Presbyterian Mission Agency
11. Endorse applications from congregations, for Synod and PC(USA) Grants
12. Administer a grant process for Greystone, The Susan Poor Fund, Peacemaking, and other potential funding sources, as they become available - including an annual process of evaluation.
13. Determine uses for the local portion of unrestricted mission funds received from congregations.

Notes:

- If the Congregational Mission Team so chooses, it may divide its work amongst various sub-committees as it deems helpful. It should be noted any such sub-committees shall be chaired by an elected member of the Congregational Mission Team, and that sub-committees may co-opt additional members of the presbytery and its congregations to aid in their work as they see fit. (Double note as this is true for all subcommittees: Sub-committees are, however, restricted from exercising powers commissioned by the presbytery and as such their recommendations must be approved by the full Congregational Mission Team. This note will eventually be included in a separate policy on sub-committees)
- The Congregational Mission Team may be called on occasionally to be a resource to congregations for advice, analysis and interpretation of the demographics of their community, for example helping to interpret Mission insight™ data.
- The Congregational Mission Team meets as often as it needs to accomplish its work.
- The Team will initially be populated by combining the membership of the Community Ministries Commission and the Grants Team, and will remain in their current classes... Regular elections will follow beginning in May 2024 on the ordinary cycle.

Domains:

- Serve as a commission of the presbytery in times of local natural disaster for the purposes of applying for and distributing disaster relief funds

Restrictions:

- Uses for the local portion of unrestricted mission funds received from congregations must be made in consultation with the Vision Team and the Finance Committee.
- Some grant allocations may need to be approved by action of the presbytery. The authority for approval shall be clearly stated in establishing the various funds.

Membership

The Mission Team is composed of no fewer than 7 and no more than 15 members elected by the presbytery to serve a three year term, with the option of renewal for a successive term. The team shall reflect the diversity of the presbytery in gender, race, ethnicity, age, geography and shall include teaching and ruling elders, and may include non-ordained members of congregations. Members of the commission are elected by the presbytery to serve a three year term, with the option of renewal for a successive term. The Community Ministries Coordinator serves as ex-officio members of the committee. For purposes of decision-making, a quorum shall be two-thirds of the members of the team.

Gifts and Requirements for Ministry

Team members should be passionate about diversity, culturally alert and

competent, and be fluent in expression of cultural humility. Members should be passionate about sharing the love of Christ with all those in need. Members will think creatively about how to resource and equip our congregations to be engaged in mission.