

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION'S

CORNERSTONE

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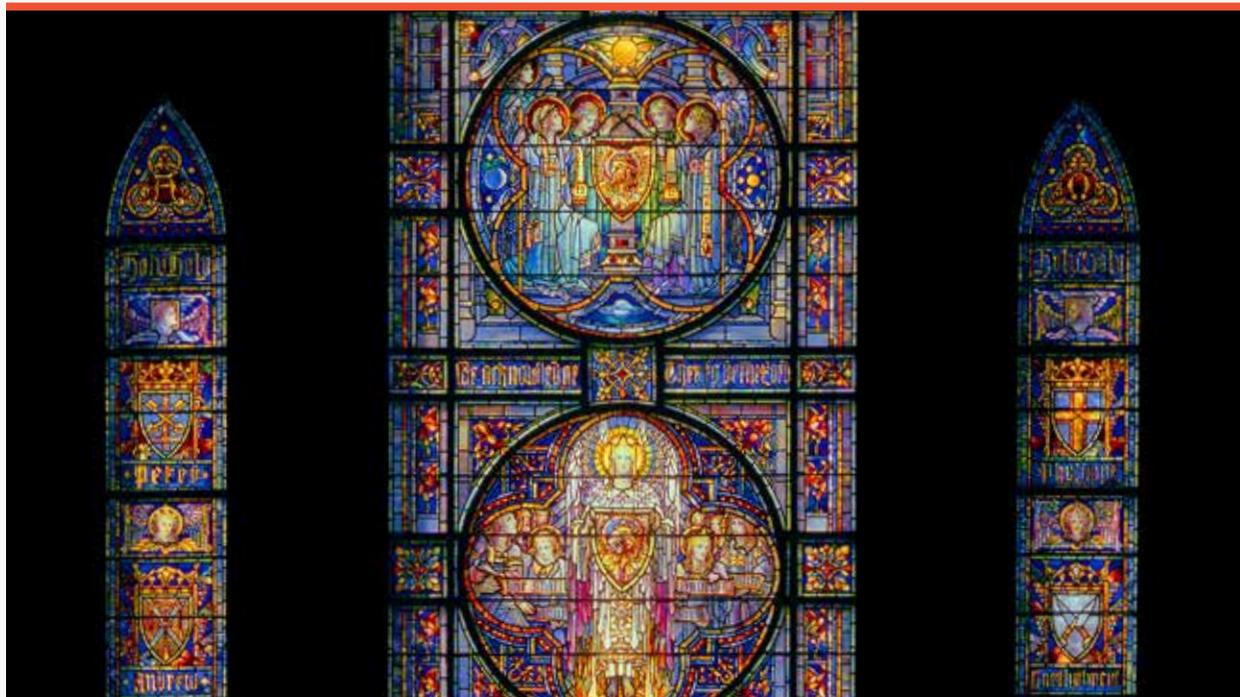


Photo: Jim McKinney

One of the central architectural elements of the Westminster Presbyterian Church is a large Tiffany stained glass window called the Te Deum Window. The name is a reference to an early Christian hymn of thanksgiving that begins with the words "Te Deum laudamus (Thee, O God, we praise)."

Te Deum – Praise Be to God

In 2009, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, received a substantial gift from the estate of a Mr. Calvin Crawford. The gift came as something of a surprise. Calvin Crawford had died in 1980, and no one in the congregation knew him.

Business administrator Craig Showalter began to investigate by reviewing the church records. "We learned that he had joined the church in 1925, a year before the current sanctuary was finished being built," Showalter says.

The investigation also revealed that Crawford had a long and illustrious career as an attorney, a judge, and a justice on the state Court of Appeals. He had been active as well in the life of the congregation during his 55-year membership, serving as both a deacon and an elder.

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From Our President

In our daily dose of media news reporting, we are confronted by many things that remind us how divided we are as a nation. For this reason, it is heartening and encouraging when we see places in the life of the church where

there is agreement about our ministry and mission and about how and why we do church together. Two recent events that I had the privilege of attending demonstrated this to me very clearly.

At the National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches (NCKPC) annual meeting near Washington, D. C., in June, hundreds of committed Korean Presbyterian leaders gathered for fellowship, worship, and discussion of plans for their future. I had the honor of addressing the group to express appreciation for the incredible faithfulness of Korean Presbyterian leaders over the years. Their dreams for the future kindled an excitement and anticipation that was nothing less than inspiring.

Just after the NCKPC event, I attended and spoke to the 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Minneapolis. Organizers had hoped for at least 1,000 attendees and ended up with more than 1,700. The gathering flowed effortlessly from worship and praise to laughter, fun, and joy, as participants also planned for how God might continue to use their organization in the future.

At both of these events, underlying the discussions about future ministries were questions such as these: Have our children and grandchildren come to know the love and grace of God in the ways that have been so meaningful and important to us? Are we providing them with the resources they need to carry on what God has begun in us, so they can reach out to a troubled and often divided world? In a time of dramatic changes in philanthropy and giving patterns, are we strategically transforming our ministries and congregations so their work will be financially sustainable in the future?

The Presbyterian Foundation is committed to asking these and similar questions, so that we are not merely looking down the proverbial road to the next year or two. We are considering how we might together ensure that the next generation of our church's leaders will advance Christ's work for years to come.

In the following pages, you will find inspiring stories and resources that can help you and your congregation find hopeful answers to questions like the ones above. We are proud to be a part of ministries like yours that continue to make a positive difference by offering the hope of Christ to the world, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Tom Taylor
President and CEO

Presbyterian
FOUNDATION 

*The Presbyterian
Foundation was
established in 1799 to*

*raise, steward, and distribute funds for mission. We work
with congregations, councils, agencies and other entities
to ensure that they have resources for mission today,
tomorrow, and 200 years from now.*

Online Giving

If you would like to learn more about how to offer online giving at your church, please contact your Ministry Relations Officer (see page 7) or visit www.PresbyterianFoundation.org/onlinegiving

Te Deum – Praise Be to God continued from cover

“We learned that the gift was from an irrevocable trust he set up in 1977 with his wife and daughter as the beneficiary and contingent beneficiary,” Showalter says. It was only after the contingent beneficiary’s death at the end of 2008 that the charitable gift could be released to the congregation.

“We obviously had no idea that it was coming,” Showalter says. “Our thanks go to Mr. Crawford and his generosity toward his church—but our thanks also go to the pastor and congregation back in 1977 who no doubt encouraged this benevolence.”

Westminster, a 1,000-member congregation, is located downtown but draws attendees from throughout the Dayton area. Some members travel 15 miles or more to attend worship on Sunday mornings. Founded in 1799, the church split into “New Light” and “Old Light” factions prior to the Civil War. But after a flood in 1913 caused significant damage to their property, the two congregations decided to rejoin with a newfound conciliatory spirit. A new building for the merged congregation was begun in 1925 and finished in 1926.

The congregation has a standing policy that all gifts, unless designated, are added to its invested funds. These funds are then drawn from in a disciplined fashion to supplement the congregation’s annual budget, which includes a local tutoring program and a ministry that provides financial assistance and direction to those wishing to get state-issued IDs.

Though the congregation has a history of actively cultivating gifts through its legacy society, members still have found themselves with a number of such surprises as the gift from Calvin Crawford.

“We have asked people to self-identify, whether or not they have made a gift, so that we can celebrate and recognize these gifts,” says Showalter. But many, he thinks, are either too humble to do so or have not been active in the life of the church during giving campaigns. “My first year working here was in 2001, and we ended up with a million-dollar gift this same way—a complete surprise.”



Funding from gifts help the congregation support a tutoring program at a local elementary school.

“Our thanks also go to the pastor and congregation back in 1977 who no doubt encouraged this benevolence.”

Showalter continues: “It really is a great thanks to the folks who went before us, who clearly in some way or another left this church a very positive influence and primed the pump for people to consider a gift. We are not clear about how much they did, or what they did, but we know that we are the beneficiaries of their work.”

The accounts of these members and their gifts are stories that Westminster Church celebrates – and retells. These stories help the congregation look back in gratitude. They also help members look forward.

“We are here now today because others before us thought it important to make a gift to this church after they are gone,” Showalter explains. “These gifts have given us a better sense of our own longevity that is in front of us as a congregation.” Gifts such as Crawford’s, he adds, beckon the church forward to give to those who will follow.

“Our legacy society is known as the Te Deum Society,” Showalter says. The society offers thanksgiving to God for those such as Calvin Crawford, who have gone before, and for those who will continue the legacy of the congregation’s ministry in their neighborhoods and in the world.

The *Live Forward, Give Forward* program provides resources to begin or enhance a planned giving program for your church. Learn more at www.PresbyterianFoundation.org/wills.

Growing Giving to Support Your Ministry

As online giving continues to grow throughout the charitable sector, this trend is reflected in the increasing number of Presbyterian ministries offering online giving through the Foundation's Presbyterian Mission Exchange. During a twelve-month period ending December 2014, 236 new ministries joined the Mission Exchange, and total giving through the platform reached \$908,915.

The Presbyterian Mission Exchange provides churches and ministries a convenient, safe, and trusted platform for people to make online gifts to support ministry. These include weekly tithes and offerings as well as special projects and campaigns. Gifts can be made by debit or credit card, by electronic funds transfer, or from donor-advised funds. Members can also take advantage of the convenience of setting up recurring gifts.

A **DONATE NOW** button added to the church's website will direct members to a customized donation page where they can make contributions to one or more church funds. Online fund management tools allow you to:

- Monitor donations and fund balances
- Acknowledge donors and tell them about the Impact of their donations
- Request withdrawals from your fund(s)
- Produce giving reports

Find out more at www.PresbyterianFoundation.org or talk to your Ministry Relations Officer.

The following is just a sampling of our partners on the Presbyterian Mission Exchange.



Presbyterian Historical Society Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The mission of the Presbyterian Historical Society is to share the story of the American Presbyterian experience with Presbyterians, the scholarly community, and the general public. Organized in 1852, the Presbyterian Historical Society is the oldest denominational archives in the United States and serves as the national archives for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and many predecessor denominations. Its holdings include more than 250,000 titles reflecting the history of the Presbyterian tradition in America. Today, the Society continues its service to the church, carrying on the legacy of the Presbyterians who had the foresight to found the institution. In their work to safeguard the heritage of American Presbyterianism, they continue to find new ways to make history accessible and relevant in our lives today.



Wycliffe Bible Translators

At least 2,000 languages are still waiting for a Bible translation to start, requiring an enormous amount of resources. The goal of the Last Languages Initiative is to help raise awareness of the need for Bible translation and to develop partnerships with churches, individuals, and other organizations to meet these needs. Wycliffe USA's mission is to see a Bible translation project in progress in every language that needs one by the year 2025, so that people all over the world will have access to God's eternal Word in a language and form they can clearly understand.

Mission Exchange



Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions

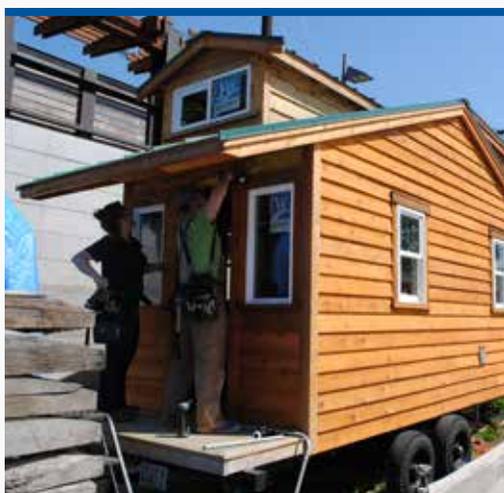
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The ministry of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions comprises a range of programs designed to meet specific assistance needs of Presbyterian pastors and other church workers at various points in their lives. These programs complement the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and provide an important safety net to church workers and their families who have specific needs that exceed personal resources or other means of support.



Theological Education Fund (TEF)

The TEF is the only source of denomination-wide funding for PC (USA) seminaries. It is a fund composed of monies contributed by Presbyterian congregations on an annual basis. The monies seminaries raise are not enough to cover expenses and to offer scholarships. These schools must be able to count on denomination-wide support to fulfill the ministries Presbyterians require of them – educating transformational leaders who can preach, teach, pray, counsel, and serve in bearing witness to the gospel.



Neighbor in My Backyard

A ministry of Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church

“Neighbors helping neighbors, one tiny house at a time.”

The community of Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Washington, believes that the only path toward truly ending homelessness is the creation of more affordable housing. Their goal is to create permanent affordable housing for formerly homeless individuals by building tiny houses on wheels and placing them on church properties and in privately owned backyards throughout the Seattle area. The small houses are designed to be extremely efficient and easy to build by volunteers. The houses are placed in mixed neighborhoods and encourage community members to have a personal stake in housing and caring for their neighbors. People need good neighbors, not just good houses. The program builds both.



Setting a Benchmark for Your Stewardship and Giving Programs

When you think about your congregation's financial health, what factors do you consider? The Sunday offering? Income vs. expenses? Debts or deficits?

There's no one right answer—indeed, a variety of factors affect the stewardship culture of your congregation, and their level of importance differs from church to church. The personalized Financial Health Assessment from the Presbyterian Foundation will help you to find the right combination of factors affecting your congregation and to identify ways to improve your church's financial health.

For example, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Venice, Florida, completed the Assessment tool's short online survey. The congregation's trustees invited Foundation Ministry Relations Officer Robert Hay to review the results of the Assessment with them. Together, they discussed areas of challenge the Assessment had identified and developed plans to move

the congregation from a traditional fall stewardship drive to a year-round emphasis on developing a culture of generosity. One outcome has been the development of a legacy society to celebrate members' faith and commitment to the mission of their church. Trinity leaders continue to use the report and to work on implementing other ideas to help continue the journey toward creating support for the church's ministry.

The Financial Health Assessment is a free tool to analyze your congregation's stewardship culture. It produces an instant report of your church's giving health. The report may reveal gaps in your fundraising goals or provide guidelines to help make your church's giving impact even greater.

Take the challenge: *learn more about how your church's stewardship compares to that of similar churches and find new ideas to enhance your program. Go to <http://assessment.PresbyterianFoundation.org>.*



We've Got Your Back

Bequests and other estate planning tools may not be the most comfortable topic of conversation. Yet, talking about these things can be easier if you take a different approach, realizing that this is a great opportunity to make a final statement about your values, your faith, and those you have loved.

The Presbyterian Foundation supports your efforts and wants to help you grow your ministry. Make plans now to learn more about how valuable a wills program can be for your congregation. Take the time to explore the resources available at PresbyterianFoundation.org/wills.

Our Mission Is to Help You with Your Mission

Ministry Relations Officers partner with you to increase funding for your ministry. Call us to discuss how we can serve you. (Email is first.last@presbyterianfoundation.org.)



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866-710-5094



**Mary "Minner"
Serovy**
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Steven Wirth
Southwest Region
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A wills program to get the conversation started

- **Bulletin inserts, bulletin covers, and booklets** such as *Guide to a Christian Will* or *Personal Record Book* for use during a seminar
- **Videos** to share during worship, at a workshop, or through a link on your website. These personal stories help viewers understand the impact a charitable bequest can make on the mission or ministry of a church.

- **Live Forward, Give Forward**, a microsite providing additional education and motivation for members. Simply provide a link on your website to Liveforwardgiveforward.org.

A Ministry Relations Officer is also available to assist with ideas and helpful resources. Find your MRO at PresbyterianFoundation.org—just enter your zip code in the MRO locator field. Or give us a call at 800-858-6127 and we will put you in touch with your MRO.

2014 Giving Highlights



churches and ministries
use the Foundation's
online giving platform



gifts were made
through online giving



donors made
contributions in 2014



distributed to mission

**\$71.8
MILLION**

in new gifts
and investments



received through the
Presbyterian Mission Exchange

**\$907.9
MILLION**

in endowment
funds under our
stewardship