

## God's Global Disciples

Presbyterian.....the most difficult denomination to spell!!

In our denomination we have two major, related yet distinct bodies –(Slide 1) Presbyterians Sharing..... and (Slide 2) Presbyterian World Service and Development or PWS&D. Sometimes we mix them up.

Presbyterians Sharing.... Is how we as a national denomination work together providing funding in the following areas : **Firstly: (Slide 3) Equipping and supporting congregations.** This congregation was started with the financial assistance of Presbyterians Sharing for many years. Money contributed by Presbyterians across the country help get churches started and on their feet. Trinity has been the recipient of this generosity.

**Second – (Slide 4) International mission and ministry** - Bible translation, Christian education and leadership development around the world help to enable countries to grow in strength so that they can become self- sustaining. Some of you know Joel Sherbino. He served in Malawi for 3 years, ministering in a church, in a local prison, and teaching men and women in Malawi to become ministers. Blair Bertrand, our former Youth Minister is there now with his family. Money from this fund support their ministry as well as missionaries in many countries around the world.

**Thirdly - (Slide 5) Leadership Development.** The Presbyterian Church in Canada has 3 seminaries – Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. These schools train and equip ministers and lay leaders to serve congregations. Money from this fund goes to help fund their education.

**Fourth - (Slide 6) Church governance and ecumenical relations.** Presbyterians Sharing, funds the annual General Assembly where elders and ministers make decisions and set priorities, they examine matters of doctrine, worship, and governance. It also supports ecumenical and interfaith collaboration on issues of peace, justice, and human rights through partners like the World Council of Churches.

**Fifth – (Slide 7) Justice .** Matters of justice, the environment, human rights, indigenous issues fall under this mandate.

**Sixth - (Slide 8) Mission and ministry.** Programs which help inner city, rural, and refugee initiatives are supported here.

**Finally - (Slide 9) Finance and administration.** The running of our national office, Women's Mission society, benevolence, and various other innovative initiatives fall under this arm of the church.

That is Presbyterians Sharing.....

As one of 993 Canadian congregations in our denomination, a portion of our budget goes to this important and wide ranging ministry. In 2017 we contributed \$23,710 to this \$8,773,000 budget.

Related to, but apart from is Presbyterian World Service and Development PWS&D.

Presbyterian World Service & Development is the development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For over 65 years, our church has been actively working to serve marginalized and vulnerable people through Presbyterian World Service & Development. While the global context has evolved since PWS&D was first formed, what has not changed is a commitment to Christ's message of love through justice, poverty reduction and support in times of disaster.

As with Presbyterians Sharing.... Funding for PWS&D comes directly from Presbyterians across Canada. Your generous gifts allow PWS&D to seek additional funding from government sources such as Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada and provincial councils, as well as through membership in other organizations such as Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Canadian Churches in Action. Through Presbyterian World Service & Development, our church responds internationally to: (Slide 10)

- u promote food security
- u provide aid in times of conflict and disaster
- u improve health and nutrition for families (Slide 11)
- u increase access to water and sanitation
- u promote education and economic empowerment
- u protect human rights and refugees

PWS&D works with international partners to carry out long-term community development programs that empower vulnerable people to overcome root causes of poverty and create lasting change. We undertake holistic programs in the areas of food security, livelihoods, health and human rights. Our reach is expanded through generous support from [Global Affairs Canada](#) and the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

As well as long term community development programs, PWS&D responds to emergency disasters - we have contributed to people around the world at times of earthquakes, tsunamis, famine, tornadoes and hurricanes.

As a disciple of Christ, it is one thing to help someone in your family, or your church, or your neighbourhood. But it is quite another thing to help someone you don't know. Someone who's address might be ½ way around the world. You've never met them. You don't know their name. You have never heard their voice. You don't know where they live. You will never, ever meet them. And yet, as a disciple of Christ, you help them.

Last Sunday afternoon there was an inter-faith service at the KRC. It was a memorial service for the 6 men who were murdered at a mosque in Quebec City. I was asked by Imam Hasim Sikander to be one of the speakers at the service. 6 young people, came forward in turn to read the biographies of the 6 men who's photos were posted at the front of the room. We learned their names, their age, their occupations, that they were married and had children. The anonymous victims became very real, very quickly. This terrible tragedy became very very real. I imagined these men. Most of them in their 40's. I thought of the people in their lives who knew them, loved them, depended on them...their wives, their children, their parents. As disciples of Christ we need to remind ourselves that these children of God are our brothers and our sisters – those we know, those we know of, and those we will never know.

We need to remind ourselves also, that as disciples of Christ, those nameless victims of floods and famine, earthquake and war, who live in far off countries are also our brothers and sisters, children of God.

I am thankful that our church has created international networks and channels through which whatever help we can offer can find its way into the right hands to make the most effective impact on the lives of hurting people.

Scripture verses on how we should help those less fortunate exist in great abundance. If we take seriously, Christ's call to love one another. It doesn't take much to figure out that we can express that love in all kinds of ways – by sharing our time, our talent, and our treasure. As disciples of Christ the call is upon us to love, without ceasing, without limit, without prejudice.

As Presbyterians, we are very fortunate. The pathway to ministering to our global community has been established. It is up to us, to create some traffic along those pathways so that everyone will know that they are loved and supported. That they are not alone. That they do not suffer in silence. Their voices have been heard and we have a way to get help to them.

It is up to each one of us, to determine how we are willing and able to live as disciples of Jesus. The Bible is very clear that the love of God abides in everyone who sees someone in need, and responds. Whatever we do for the least of God's children, we do for God.

We are Christians. We are Presbyterians. We share what we have with God's people everywhere. We are all God's people! Amen