

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



in Ministry Together

780
congregations

102,000
members and adherents

1,254
ministers

11,000
children and youth

Languages and cultures from Taiwan, Korea, China, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Latin America, South East Asia, Indigenous Communities, Quebec and many more are reflected in congregations across Canada.

(From statistical reports submitted by congregations in 2023)



What we believe

The teachings in scripture, read in its historical context, seen through the light of the life of Jesus Christ, and understood with the presence of the Holy Spirit, guide the faith and life of Presbyterians (*Living Faith*). We strongly value biblical and theological education for both clergy and lay people (*PCC Strategic Plan, 2016*).

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has adopted several creeds and confessions over time and made theological and social statements on a variety of issues, which can all be found at presbyterian.ca.

Where we come from

The Presbyterian Church in Canada was formed in 1875. In 1925, 60 percent of congregations joined Methodists and Congregationalists to form the United Church of Canada; the remaining congregations continued as The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In the 20th century, immigrants from countries with a strong Reformed heritage, including Guyana, Korea, Taiwan, Hungary, Ghana and Nigeria, formed vibrant new congregations.

What we do Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we

Gather

to worship, celebrate the sacraments and learn to be followers of Christ.

Study scripture

to discern God's guidance for today and tomorrow.

(PCC Strategic Plan, 2016)

Work together

to proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.

Using our gifts



to share in God's mission

How ministry is funded

Members and adherents support congregations through offerings and special gifts. According to the statistical reports congregations submitted to the PCC in 2023, \$113 million was given to congregations across Canada to do mission and ministry. From those gifts, congregations conduct vibrant ministry in their communities and share in ministry through presbyteries, synods and the denomination.

Congregations cover ministry costs for their communities and share the expenses of presbyteries and synods through an assessment system set by those bodies and they contribute to Presbyterians Sharing—the operating fund of the denomination—based on a recommended allocation set by the General Assembly. Gifts from individuals, groups and businesses, and through numerous legacy funds established by past generations, augment the gifts from congregations.

In addition, congregations and individuals support development, relief and refugee work through Presbyterian World Service & Development and special international and Canadian funds of the Life & Mission Agency. These funds support a wide variety of work, including creative ministry with children and youth, international mission staff, Indigenous ministry in Canada, experimental ministry or projects, short-term training for lay leaders and support for worship leaders.

The Atlantic Mission Society and Women's Missionary Society also raise funds to support the work of PCC partners in Canada and around the world. Presbyterian camps are run by presbyteries and synods and rely on registration fees, fundraising and special grants from the denomination. Three theological colleges—Knox College, Presbyterian College, St. Andrew's Hall/Vancouver School of Theology—are supported through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and by raising additional funds from individuals, governments and foundations.

Donate at presbyterian.ca/donate



In 2023, over

\$11.5 million

was given to support the mission and ministry we share together as The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

\$5.3 million

was given to **Presbyterians Sharing**

\$2.9 million

was given to **Presbyterian World Service & Development**

\$0.37 million

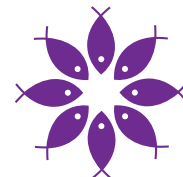
was given to **PWS&D's account** with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

\$0.65 million

was given to other **PCC mission funds** (Indigenous, international, justice and more)

\$2.3 million

was given in bequests to **PCC mission and ministry**



(Preliminary figures as of Feb 1, 2024; still undergoing final verification and audit.)

Congregations serve and bring people together in their communities for worship and service. Presbyteries, synods and the denomination support congregational, regional, national and international mission and ministry. The ministry of all levels of our church complement and build on one another. Together, we provide funding for ministries and spaces for young people to deepen their faith. We appeal to governments to act and speak for those who have been silenced and marginalized. We commit to caring for God's world, responding to natural and human-caused disasters and working to address the systemic causes of poverty.

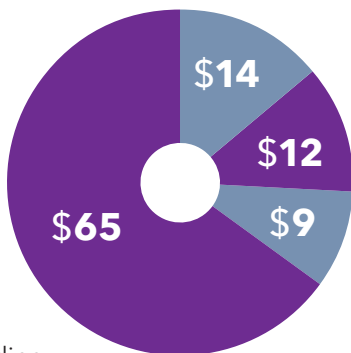
By working together, through the power of God, we accomplish far more than we can ever imagine.

What our Presbyterians Sharing gifts do

Our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing provide the foundation for what we do together as a denomination. The budget is passed by the General Assembly to support the work the church decides to undertake, seeking to further God's mission and continue Christ's ministry in the world.

Together, we provide funding for ministries with vulnerable people and appeal to governments to take action and prioritize funding to protect our planet, stop racism and discrimination, eliminate poverty, address missing and murdered Indigenous women, end the overdose and housing crises and more. We acknowledge our footprint on the planet and commit to greening congregational buildings, reducing travel and phasing out single-use plastics. We commit to working for affordable housing for all.

Out of every \$100 given to Presbyterians Sharing



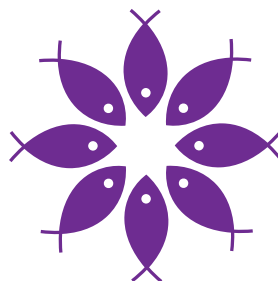
\$65 equips ministries

in Canada by providing grants for congregations, camps, theological colleges and other ministries, producing educational resources, hosting webinars and events and supporting governance and justice work.

\$14 accompanies **mission partners** sharing the good news across the globe

\$12 supports ministries with **Indigenous people**

\$9 provides **good stewardship** of gifts with effective finance and administration



Together, we equip staff and volunteers to work on national and international programs and provide space and financial management for PWS&D, the Women's Missionary Society and the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation. We invest and steward long-term investments for congregations and ministries across Canada.

Together, we help congregations navigate challenging times and equip leaders through theological colleges, conferences and webinars. Coaches and mentors walk alongside congregations as they seek out new directions. Grants help launch new faith communities and renew established ones. National and regional staff and volunteers help congregations courageously follow where the Holy Spirit is leading.

Together, we equip leaders to serve and lead the church around the world and work with international partners to share the good news of Christ. We bring Presbyterians from across Canada to the General Assembly, where they spend time in worship, prayer, reflection and dialogue and seek God's direction and leadership as decisions are made about how we will work together.

Together, we speak up for children's rights and the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and their families. We fight racism and discrimination. We provide spaces for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to walk together on a journey of healing and reconciliation.

Together, we are building a church where all are welcome.

None of this is possible without your generosity

Thank you for giving to congregations, Presbyterians Sharing, PWS&D and other PCC ministries. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things.

What's important to us

Telling the biblical story in ever-new and creative ways.

Pointing to Christ's redemptive work and the Spirit's life-changing presence.

Serving others with the love of Christ.

Striving to use God's gifts wisely and fairly for the good of all.

Providing places of sanctuary, tranquility and renewal.

Calling for personal righteousness, justice, and healing and reconciliation in the church and the world.

Learning from people of different denominations and faiths and working together to heal the nations.

(extracted from *Acts & Proceedings of the 121st General Assembly, 1995*)



How we work together

Presbyterians participate in mission and ministry together by participating in and sharing in the care and oversight of congregational ministry and supporting ministries and outreach at regional, national and international levels. We work together at four different levels, with ministers and elders sharing in leadership at all levels. In 2024:

780
congregations

Members and adherents can participate fully in the life of a congregation. Sessions oversee the overall ministry of congregations, including pastoral care, worship, Christian education, stewardship and mission.

43
Presbyteries

Presbyteries oversee congregations and ministries within its bounds.

8
Synods

Synods bring together presbyteries to work together in mission, supporting learning opportunities and camping ministries.

1
General Assembly

General Assembly receives and discusses reports, overtures and appeals from committees, congregations, presbyteries and synods. Trusting the Holy Spirit, the Assembly makes decisions to guide the ministry of the church at all levels. General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the church, made up an equal number of ministers and lay leaders representing congregations in presbyteries from across Canada.

Committees

The work of the denomination is overseen by committees consisting of people nominated by presbyteries and congregations from across Canada. Through committees and working groups, the General Assembly advises the moderator, confirms church doctrine, participates in healing and reconciliation, and supports congregations, Indigenous ministries and more. In 2023, there were over 245 people serving on over 30 committees and working groups. Each year around 200 commissioners from congregations across Canada form the General Assembly to determine the church's direction.

Boards and Agencies

There are a number of independent boards and agencies that report to the General Assembly and whose mandates support The Presbyterian Church in Canada. They provide theological education and building loans to congregations, administer pension and benefits, run the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre, provide summer camps and more.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 | 1-800-619-7301 | presbyterian.ca

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