

Together in Service



The revitalization of PW's hands-on mission program, formerly known as Mission Opportunities, continues. The direction for the new program will be voted at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering (July 7–11, 2006). The re-envisioned program, renamed Together in Service, upholds Presbyterian women's commitment to mission, while offering new guidelines for carrying out that commitment.

New Name, New Strategy

The Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women (CCT/PW) has heard suggestions from women around the country and talked with mission partners to learn what is needed. Two goals gave direction to the modification of the mission program—keeping Presbyterian women engaged with mission in as many ways as possible and practicing good stewardship of resources involved in mission work, including time, talent and money. The CCT/PW incorporated the feedback they heard and created a revised program that is simpler, more flexible and more responsive to changing needs around the world.

Rather than the previous model of PW's national office assigning projects in three-year cycles, Together in Service gives Presbyterian women the freedom to choose their own mission projects. Look around your community and dialogue with your church or PW group about what needs you can answer.

Be Together in Service by

- making or purchasing items and sending them where needed, both locally and internationally
- donating money to fund mission initiatives such as healthcare, education and Bible study



photo courtesy of Detroit Presbyterian Presbyterian Women

Sewing lap robes for a local hospital gives warmth and prayerful support to patients.

- supporting existing denominational and ecumenical programs
- providing mission interpretation and education to the whole church
- developing personal relationships with mission workers
- sharing stories and wisdom gained from service experiences

Together in Service also means participating in

- PW programs (such as the Mission Pledge, Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, Global Exchange and Honorary Life Memberships)
- PC(USA) programs (such as the Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Global Partnerships, Enough for Everyone and Presbyterian Peacemaking Program)

- educational programs (such as the Fellowship of the Least Coin, World Day of Prayer, Heifer Project International, Habitat for Humanity, Bread for the World and Church World Service)
- self-determined local programs (such as women's shelters, hospitals, children's programs, alternative gift fairs, food pantries, retirement and nursing homes, and centers serving people who are homeless)

Together in Service offers Presbyterian women the chance to be creative, enthusiastic, faithful and generous in serving our sisters and brothers. Many Presbyterian women are called to live out their faith through hands-on mission. Together in Service will help make this possible.

Bringing Together in Service to Life

More information about the revised program will be available after the 2006 Churchwide Gathering. Watch *Horizons* for more news, resources and stories.

For additional information on Together in Service, contact Cheri Harper, PW associate for synod support, charper@ctr.pcusa.org or 888/728-7228, ext. 5402.

Share your mission stories with all of Presbyterian Women! Presbyterian Women's national offices want to hear and circulate your success stories of local mission projects, fundraisers or global mission connections. Send stories (and photos if available) to Cheri Harper, PW associate for synod support, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396; charper@ctr.pcusa.org.