

POD Resources

This is a guide to the resources offered by the Presbytery of Detroit to its pastors, sessions and congregations. Pastors and Sessions are encouraged to read through this list to discover resources that might prove beneficial to the life and work of their congregations.

Further Information about these resources can be found at www.detroitpresbytery.org. Follow the dropdown links under each Committee or Work Group heading.

Because of the rotational nature of leadership, the current contact person for each committee or work group is listed on the website.

Pastors

From [Leadership Equipping](#)

Pastors in Transition: We help bring pastors and CREs together to build relationship, hone leadership skills, offer support, and care through retreats, coaching, and community events.

From [Committee on Ministry](#)

Pastoral Issues: Assistance with compensation, job descriptions, validated ministries, conflict resolution and retirement. There are forms covering the POD Sexual Misconduct Policy, Background Checks, Salary Change Forms, links for free counseling, Minimum Terms of Call and a pulpit supply list. In addition, there are resources dealing with Clergy as Mandated Reporters and a Pastoral Response Team.

Sessions/Congregations

From Operations

We provide support for Clerks in their responsibilities of reviewing minutes.

From [Congregational Development and Transformation:](#)

Holy Conversations: A congregational consulting and discernment process that seeks God's vision for the future of a congregation, leading to a new vision and mission statement, and at least one new ministry project that engages the neighborhood.

Strategic Planning: assist congregations in creating church-wide goals and plans to implement them.

Mission Insite: This gives session and pastors access to demographic data that can be used for many different purposes.

Church Development/Transformation Consultation: tools are made available to assist in congregational discernment and development. These include connecting congregations with Holy Cow resources including CAT and consultants.

Congregational Grants: The Congregational Development & Transformation Ministry Team has grants available to churches who are seeking to do a new project in their community to show the love of Christ to their neighbors.

From [Leadership Equipping](#)

Leadership Training Day: We organize a leadership training day focusing on lay leaders. Workshops are offered that will equip persons to perform ministry in such a manner that will strengthen congregations. The goal is to provide church leaders with ideas, information and inspiration.

Stewardship: We provide educational events that help congregations learn how to run a strong stewardship campaign. We help persons understand that being a steward is a “way of life” and it is more than giving money. We provide consulting services with congregations upon request.

From [Committee on Ministry](#)

Pastoral Issues: We work with churches who are looking for a new pastor, saying goodbye to a pastor, or seeking an interim or temporary pastor. We work with pastors and sessions to have smoother relationships, do evaluations, write contracts and figure out the right compensation and write job descriptions. If there's conflict or a concern, we can help with that. We also support clergy in finding clergy coaches and can help with the payment. Or if you think that your church simply needs refreshing we can assist with that too.

Sexual Misconduct: The COM provides support to congregations and individuals where there are accusations of clergy sexual misconduct.

Safe Church Policies: These include Creating Sexual Misconduct Policies, Essentials for Church Child Protection Policy, Definitions-Creating Safe Ministries, Examples of Reporting Sexual Misconduct, Prevention-Creating Safe Ministries, We Won't Let It Happen Here and Why We Need Policies

From [Committee on Preparation for Ministry:](#)

Members seeking ordination: The Committee for Preparation for Ministry (CPM) works with individuals seeking to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and with Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) who serve in a limited pastoral role. CPM also works with sessions when a member of their church desires to explore a call to ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament or a CRE.

From [Trustees](#)

Property Assistance: The trustees offer a boiler-plate contract for those using church property, a revocation of property use document, a request for permission to enter into a real estate transaction and another for permission to borrow (both are necessary for all real estate transactions entered into and loans taken out by POD congregations), a self-study for viability of building projects, a Loan Application form for General Assembly Loans, and a checklist for PILP Loans (www.pilp.pcusa.org for more information). Trustees also oversee per-capita, including receiving, recording and distributing it to presbytery and other governing bodies.

Assistance with church mergers/closings: This is conducted by the P-21 workgroup. P-21 will assist churches in exploring their long-term viability and offering insight into future possibilities. It will also assist in the legal dissolution of congregations.

From [Multicultural Ministries](#):

Multicultural Resources: This Team offers a packet for a Virtual Multicultural Ministries Workshop, Fifth Sunday Resources (concerned with Asian American issues) and an article on understanding the Belhar Confession.

From [Social Justice](#):

Social Justice Resources: These resources include information on Everyone Eats, Gender Based Violence, Immigration, Metro-Urban Ministries, Water Justice, Hunger Ministries (see below) and Self-Development of People (see below).

Hunger Ministries Program

The Hunger Ministries Program seeks to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. We provide congregations with information and resources on hunger related programs and projects to equip them to meet the needs of their neighbors here and around the world. We also offer resources on justice issues pertaining to food insecurity as well as information on advocacy for those living in poverty. We provide training for safe food handling practices, advice on community gardens, networking for food sharing, and provide support for congregations feeding people in areas of need. We offer opportunities to serve in direct hunger relief in our presbytery and can advise congregations on how to make a sustainable impact internationally.

Self-Development of People

Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling by participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Grants are awarded to community groups that meet the SDOP criteria for funding.

Ranney-Balch Grants: Also included under Metro-Urban Ministries is the Ranney-Balch grant application. These funds are intended "*...for the aid of aged poor of the congregations of the Presbytery of Detroit and/or for the benefit of Christian work among Italian, Negro and other under privileged groups within the bounds of said presbytery...*" (from the will that established the fund).

From [Mission Interpretation](#) and [Hands on Mission](#):

Resources include information about Mission Co-worker Connections, POD Partnerships with the Thika Presbytery in Kenya, campus ministry and the Second Mile Center in Detroit.

Mission Opportunities: Provide/explain mission opportunities within the Presbytery or outside the Presbytery including providing tomato plants in May to encourage growing community gardens to deliver fresh produce to local food pantry, consult on other programs to support growing vegetables, lining up mission work projects with partners in Southeast Michigan, arrange hosting of inbound mission work groups outside of our Presbytery, train members how to run a health festival, connect individual volunteers that want to participate in a group mission-oriented activity and facilitate learning between congregations.

Mission Consultation: They offer consulting support for running a mission project, answering questions about partners in the area for mission work, educating about recruiting congregation members to participate in mission and consulting on sending out mission groups or hosting

Christian Education/Children and Youth

From [Leadership Equipping](#)

Presbyterian Youth Connection: We support youth ministry through presbytery-wide events, leadership training, sharing information that bring young people together and build the body of Christ. There are also scholarships available for youth events and Triennium.

Resource Center: We offer resources in the form of books and audiovisual resources as well as curriculum and reference materials. Resources may be viewed and ordered from the Presbytery Resource section of the Presbytery website and picked up in person or mailed to your home or church. The Resource Center is open Mondays through Thursdays during Presbytery hours.

Presbyterian Pilgrimage: Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a renewal weekend that happens every Fall and Spring. It begins on a Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. It is a time for the participants to grow in their faith, experience God's grace full-blown, and to move from a mundane ordinary life to an extraordinary adventure with God. The participants hear several talks by both pastors and laypeople. There is time for discussion, individual reflection and moments that will make you laugh and cry. This weekend can change your life—for the better!

Christian Education & Faith Development: We are a network that shares cutting edge information in Educational Ministry. We support persons taking courses to become certified Christian Educators. We offer scholarships to persons attending the GLAPCE regional Fall Conference. We develop training events that helps persons in their faith development.