

THE PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM HOW IT WORKS IN RESPONDING TO WORLD HUNGER

Grants Covering a One Year Period

THE COMMON AFFIRMATION ON GLOBAL HUNGER

In 1979 the General Assemblies of the two predecessors of the Presbyterian Church (USA) joined in issuing a "Common Affirmation on Global Hunger". It states:

*That God our Creator has made the world for everyone, and desires that all shall have daily bread.
That God has been at work through history, even as evidenced in those mighty acts on behalf of the people of Israel, to liberate the poor and the oppressed that they may serve and glorify their Maker with their whole life.
That God's prophets through the ages have pronounced judgment upon those who exploit and neglect the poor and the hungry.
That Jesus Christ our Savior identified with the world's poor, and came to announce good news to them.
That God's spirit is at work in the Church, calling us to embody our Savior's compassion and struggle for justice on earth.
That God seeks the reconciliation of peoples and nations whereby the cries of the hungry and the needy shall be answered...*

- "The crisis of world hunger is of such proportions that it will be with us for decades to come...
- Therefore, in the face of the global crisis of hunger, and compelled by the Holy Spirit and by our faith in Jesus Christ, we now together reaffirm our commitment to this agenda for hunger action in the closing years of the twentieth century.
- We affirm that such a program priority is more than simply a response to the crisis itself, ominous as that may be. Rather, it is rooted in and grows out of our Biblical faith..." (Common Affirmation on Global Hunger)

With these ideas in mind the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA called the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) to carry out its hunger ministry. To that effect it set aside 32% of the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering taken every year during Lent for the support of PHP. In addition, the PHP receives support in the form of contributions and designated giving.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is a small department lodged within the Global Service and Witness work area of the Worldwide Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Its work extends the solidarity of Presbyterians in the United States of America to poor people around the world through prayer, awareness building activities among US congregations, policy advocacy with the US government, and through grants to support religious institutions and secular organizations working against hunger in the USA and overseas. It does not have any staff in the field and relies strictly on church partners, mission personnel and resource contacts in foreign countries to accompany communities trying to address hunger in their given context.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to strengthen the partnership of Presbyterian churches in the United States with Christian churches, ecumenical agencies and secular organizations overseas as they respond to hunger in their local situations. Our support is a witness to Christ's solidarity with poor people. It aims at helping them heal, at gaining a wholeness in life with dignity, at building self reliance and at challenging injustices in peaceful ways to end hunger and suffering.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program covers five program areas: Relief of chronic hunger, Development Assistance for socio-economic activities, Public policy advocacy to influence government policies related to hunger situations, Lifestyles that protect the earth's resources and do not waste or indulge in consumerism, Hunger Education in the community to build awareness about local root causes of hunger in a particular country, and their connections to global issues.

In its international grant making program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program covers the following programmatic areas:

A) Direct Food Relief:

The proposed activities shall help make food available to people who cannot provide for themselves on a temporary basis or permanently. Relief programs should also consider long-range solutions to the prob-

lems affecting such communities. These activities shall involve the following, in order of priority:

- Food canteens in schools and kindergartens
- Soup kitchens for the poor
- "Food for work" community activities

B) Development Assistance:

The proposed activities should help bring about long-term improvements to the quality of life of poor people in more than one way. These activities should aim to increase self reliance and empowerment of poor people. Activities may include the following, in order of priority:

- Agricultural production and training
- Provision of clean water
- Livestock production and development
- Food storage, transformation, conservation, distribution systems
- Community organizing to advocate for policy reforms to relieve hunger;
- Women and youth income-generating activities
- Efforts to secure and keep land for low income farmers
- Micro-Credit programs especially those concerning women
- Human rights defense for the poor
- Formation of cooperatives as structures of employment for poor people;
- Appropriate technology related to food production and/ or conservation
- Nutrition education

C) Public Policy Advocacy

The proposed activities shall advocate through just and peaceful means, political and/or economic policy changes which a) provide food for poor and hungry people; empower their self development; or c) promote freedom from oppressive and unjust systems that fail to meet basic needs.

D) Lifestyle Integrity

The proposed activities shall assist the church to move toward sustainable corporate and personal lifestyles sensitive to the reality of the earth's limited resources and the critical needs of the poorest of the human family.

E) Education and Interpretation

The proposed activities shall educate the church and the public at large about local and global root causes of hunger in a particular country and around the world. They shall prepare and motivate people to act and to educate others and provide opportunities for being in solidarity with and learning among poor communities.

CRITERIA

A. General Criteria

The Presbyterian Hunger Program shall consider proposals which meet the following requirements:

1. The proposed activity shall fit into at least one of the five programmatic areas mentioned above.
2. The proposal shall work to lessen hunger and poverty and to address their causes.
3. The proposed activity shall come from an organization. Proposals will not be accepted if they come from private businesses or from individuals. The PHP will not normally accept applications from governmental structures.
4. The proposed activity shall benefit poor people, especially women, racial ethnic persons or other disadvantaged groups. Those benefitting shall be involved in the planning and implementation of these activities.
5. The proposed activities shall promote a just sharing of the earth's resources and the protection of the environment.
6. The organization which is applying shall have good working relations in its own country with a national church body, whether or not it be a formal partner of the Presbyterian Church USA. It also may show existing relationships with community organizations, government agencies and other programs which share the same goals. In order to support local self reliance, PHP will give priority to applications submitted by organizations in the geographic area of the proposed activities.
7. The application shall propose activities for which there are:
 - a) clearly stated goals and objectives;
 - b) feasible methods for attaining these goals and objectives;
 - c) a method of annual evaluation;
 - d) a clear and adequate budget, reflecting both expected income and expenditures;
 - e) a reasonable long range plan for self sufficiency and/or increasing local support;
 - f) sufficient staff and/or volunteers to accomplish its objectives; and
 - g) people, know how and equipments that are appropriate to the local situation and need.

B.- Criteria for Inclusiveness:

1. Programs which discriminate or work against the empowerment of women or people of color shall not be considered for funding.
2. In the spirit of the Ecumenical Guidelines for Sharing, the PHP shall ensure that at least 50% of its grants are for activities which empower women and/or racial ethnic or indigenous people. To qualify an application must propose the following:
 - a) An activity that is entirely planned and implemented by women, especially women of color;
 - b) A new activity for which the initial organizing leadership, decision-making bodies and implementing structures reflect the racial composition of the benefitting community and include at least 50% women, or
 - c) An ongoing activity for which the decision-making bodies and implementing structures reflect the racial composition of the benefitting community and include at least 50% women.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program favors proposals coming directly from Third World partners rather than from US-based organizations looking for support of their own overseas activities or acting as intermediaries on behalf of other overseas groups.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Proposals may be submitted to the Presbyterian Hunger Program by churches, religious agencies and secular organizations. In the case of secular applicants, ordinarily an endorsement by a national church body or ecumenical agency must be submitted with the first grant request. In addition, some background documentation is needed for first time secular applicants, such as: by-laws, list of officers, certificate of official registration conferring legal status to the group. **(In countries where this is a requirement, the applicant shall submit a copy of the government certificate authorizing the group to receive foreign contributions).**

Proposals must be submitted on the Presbyterian Hunger Program most recent grant application form for international projects. The form should be completely filled out and all questions answered, preferably in English. **Only applications which are clear, completely filled out and with all relevant endorsement, reports, documentation and/or background information will be processed for grant consideration.**

Grant applications may be submitted at any time during the year. However, early submission of an application enables us to respond quicker. There is about a six month processing time to provide for review, exchange of correspondence and decision on proposals received.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program Advisory Committee makes all final decisions concerning funding, taking into consideration recommendations from overseas churches and Christian agencies, as well as those of committee members, staff, mission personnel in the country, and independent local appraisers who may be consulted. Applicants should expect to be interviewed directly and their projects visited by mission personnel residing in the country or by local resource people contracted on the basis of their expertise to provide an insight to the PHP Committee about the viability of the applying group and about the feasibility of the proposed activity.

The decisions of the committee are also guided by priorities set by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and by the criteria indicated in the previous chapter. But above all, the availability of funds remains one of the most important factors guiding the Committee's decisions. **Ordinarily, the maximum level of grants approved by the Committee is \$20,000, with the average grant being around \$7,000. Usually, our grants cover only parts of the total financial request and are given only for specific and measurable activities which can be completed within a twelve month period.** There shall be no appeal of PHP decisions regarding applications outside the United States.

Progress reports are requested of all funded projects, and must be received prior to consideration of any additional request. They are indeed important tools of communication and a vital link between the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the project partners.

There is no automatic renewal of one year grants. If a partner wants to receive another grant for the completion of the same project, he/she must send us a letter formulating the request, with pages indicating specifically the new objectives to be met and a new budget. If there are any substantial changes from the original project, then it is better to submit a new application altogether. Please note that any un-clarity in the way a request is presented may result in your application being declined. One year grants will not be renewed more than three times.

Applicants from outside the United States shall send their applications to:

**The Presbyterian Hunger Program,
100 Witherspoon St. Louisville, KY 40202-1396 USA.
Phone: 1-(502) 569-5828, Fax: 1-(502) 569-8963;
email: lioneld@ctr.pcusa.org**