

Thank Offering ^{•2008} PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

History of the Thank Offering and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE THANK OFFERING?

The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord." A day was set aside for meetings that were to be a "concert of prayer and praise and the gathering of the Thank Offering." The gifts presented at the annual convention represented much soul-searching and self-sacrifice on the part of many women. The impact they made was immeasurable. It has been said that women's giving saved the worldwide missionary movement at that time. The thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, but a "thank offering to her Lord" continued to be an important part of women's giving by United Presbyterian Women. This expression of thanksgiving now is an important part of Presbyterian Women.

WHAT IS THE THANK OFFERING?

It is one of two monetary offerings by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This offering should be seen as an extension of, and separate from, Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge support.

HOW MUCH MONEY SUPPORTS HEALTH MINISTRIES PROJECTS?

At least 40 percent of this offering supports hospitals and other health ministries throughout the world.

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE THANK OFFERING COLLECTED?

The offering is received in the fall and may be dedicated at fall Gatherings. The offering should be sent to the treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery by December 10, 2008.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN FUNDED FOR THE THANK OFFERING?

Many types of programs have been funded through the years—hospitals, schools, women's health programs, domestic violence shelters, child and youth development programs, elder care programs, hunger programs, homeless shelters and many more.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Proposals may be submitted from projects around the United States and the world, as long as established criteria are met. For more information, contact the PW associate for special offerings, 888/728-7228, ext. 5387, Cindy.Goodman@pcusa.org, or visit www.pcusa.org/pw/thank.

WHERE CAN I GET AN APPLICATION?

Applications are available online at www.pcusa.org/pw or from the PW associate for special offerings, 888/728-7228, ext. 5387, Cindy.Goodman@pcusa.org. The deadline for submitting an application is September 15.

WHO CHOOSES THE GRANT RECIPIENTS?

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) of Presbyterian Women meets in the spring to review applications and make selections.

WHO IS ON THE CMOC?

The CMOC is composed of eight members—six from the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women (CCT/PW) and two from the General Assembly Council (GAC).

ARE THE PROPOSALS REVIEWED BY ANY OTHER ENTITY?

Yes. Each proposal must be endorsed by a presbytery or synod of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). International projects must have the endorsement of an indigenous church that is in relationship with the PC(USA). PC(USA) staff members familiar with an applicant or the region where an applicant is based also review the proposal.

WHAT TYPES OF REPORTS ARE REQUIRED OF THE APPLICANT ONCE THE PROGRAM IS FUNDED?

The proposal writer must submit an interim report, a one-year follow-up report and a two-year follow-up report. The first payment is 70 percent of the amount awarded. Once the interim report has been returned to the PW office in Louisville, the remaining 30 percent is remitted.

WHAT NEW PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR?

This year we have added a video presentation on DVD to the packet of promotional materials we produce every year. And many of the promotional items are in English and Spanish—placemat, poster, bulletin inserts and bulletin covers.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Read the July/August issue of *Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women. To subscribe, call 800/524-2612 or visit www.pcusa.org/horizons.

Invite a speaker from one of the recipients in your area. For contact information, contact the PW associate for special offerings, 888/728-7228, ext. 5387, Cindy.Goodman@pcusa.org.

Visit www.pcusa.org/pw/thank.