

## Together in Service Power Point script

### Slide #1

#### Together in Service

#### Serving Our Purpose

Presbyterian Women has always cared about the mission of the church in a special way. From early beginnings as “missionary societies” to work with hospitals and schools, and concern for social justice issues, the caring has been tangible. Together in Service provides new ways for PW to continue this commitment.

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God calls us to action in *James 1:22*.

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#### The Changing Face of Mission

We have seen a shift away from charity work that makes the donor feel good, but does not necessarily help the receiver in the long term. Now mission work has matured into an environment of mutual partnership. By listening, respecting and responding to those we seek to help, we strengthen our ministry. We want to practice good stewardship. Making and shipping bandages, mosquito nets and AIDS Home-Based Care Kits is expensive. For our partners, the value of such items is frequently not worth the cost.

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#### The Changing Face of Mission

The expense of receiving the materials we send can impose a burden on our overseas partners. They must provide equipment, labor and high-priced fuel to collect, store and distribute what we send.

<Picture of items in Congo waiting for shipment.>

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#### Respond to Changing Needs

Our projects, such as mosquito nets and AIDS Home-Based Care Kits have been so effective that African government agencies and international organizations now make these materials widely available, often at a lower cost. Since local authorities have taken on these projects, PW is freed to serve in new ways. Note that we will still support Malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention through Networkers and the AIDS ministries of the PC(USA).

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#### Together in Service Locally

Together in Service simplifies mission at the local level. Instead of having specific mission assignments, Presbyterian women in the congregations will support projects of their own choosing.

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#### Together in Service Locally

While PW groups may continue existing projects, they can also explore new avenues for service. Presbyteries, synods, denominational and ecumenical agencies are available to provide information about wider needs.

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Questions to Evaluate Local Requests for Funding

The PC(USA) carefully evaluates its mission partners. If you are considering financial support for projects outside the denomination, ask the following questions.

**How is the program experienced by those it serves?**

Do they feel like persons of worth? Or are they treated impersonally or judgmentally?

**Is the program run in an open and transparent manner?**

Make sure the organization has a structure that makes decisions and oversees the finances

**Does the program deal with underlying causes or just symptoms?**

Hungry people do need food. If we stop there, however, we may be simply perpetuating the problem or even promoting dependency.

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Questions to Evaluate Local Requests for Funding

**Does the program provide interpretive materials?**

You will probably want to promote and provide education about this project.

**Does this program coordinate its activities with similar agencies?**

No one program can go it alone.

**Will this relationship help us better understand the problems being addressed and make us better citizen advocates?**

Most of the social problems that we deal with have some “public policy” connections such as public housing, food stamps and low-income tax credits.

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Suggestions for Local Projects

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More Local Suggestions

Remember, nobody can do everything but everyone can do something.

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Together in Service Globally

PW has always been a strong supporter of PC(USA) overseas hospitals. Financial support, baby layettes and some purchased items are still needed.

<Picture of Luebo Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo>

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Overseas Hospital Needs

While overseas hospital needs have changed, infant supplies made in the United States are still considered very desirable, often providing an incentive for women to seek prenatal care and

delivery at a hospital. American-made sheets are in demand. Six hundred sheets will supply a 100-bed hospital for 3 years. Thermal blankets are needed to wrap sick and undernourished persons for warmth.

<Photo of a mother in Malawi. Her child is wearing a PW layette.>

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##### Overseas Financial Support Opportunities

Mission partners can buy certain items regionally or from local workers, thus contributing to their own economy and eliminating overseas shipping costs. For example,

1. Bicycles are used by African health workers to visit homes and distribute supplies for patients and families struggling with HIV/AIDS.
2. Mattresses are needed to replace worn-out, unsanitary mattresses in hospitals.
3. Nurses' uniforms are required in Haiti for student nurses. The inability to buy a uniform can prevent a young woman from pursuing a nursing education.

<Photo of a volunteer in Malawi. The bag of grain on the back of his bike will be delivered to his "client"—the person with HIV/AIDS for whom he gives care. This bicycle was purchased with money from Presbyterian women.>

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##### The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Congo is a recipient of our overseas hospital donations.

<Picture of a maternity room in Congo>

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##### Malawi

Malawi is also a major recipient of our donations.

<Picture of new mattresses being delivered in Malawi>

#### Slide #17

##### Haiti

The nursing school in Haiti is a new project of Presbyterian Women

<Picture of Holy Cross Hospital in Haiti>

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##### Together in Service in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

You can support programs related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with confidence, as they have all been carefully evaluated.

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##### Questions to Evaluate Requests for Funding Globally

When considering projects outside of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), ask the following questions:

**What do we know about the person or organization asking for help?**

Take time to learn something about the program you are asked to support. Ask a lot of questions.

**Is the project an appropriate response to the needs of the community?**

Make sure the recipients need or even want the items being offered. Ask if the items being sent can be purchased in the country, providing needed employment opportunities.

**Who owns the project or program?**

When the community defines its own needs and solutions, and is in control of efforts to implement those solutions, there is greater chance of long-term impact.

<Photo of coffee farm visited during an Enough for Everyone study trip to Nicaragua.>

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Together in Service Ecumenically

Numerous ecumenical projects receive support from Presbyterian women.

<Photo of a child in a disaster area receiving a school kit from Church World Service.>

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Sharing Our Stories

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Sharing Our Stories

To share your stories, go to the PW Web site, [www.pcusa.org/pw](http://www.pcusa.org/pw), and follow the links to the Together in Service page.

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Together in Service Guide

The information shared in this PowerPoint presentation—plus lots more—is contained in the *Together in Service* guidebook. It is available for sale through the Presbyterian Distribution Service, [www.pcusa.org/marketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace) or 800/524-2612.

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Additional Resources

Presbyterian Women has collaborated with Congregational Ministries Publishing to develop the new edition of the mission resource, *Embracing God's World*. Encourage PWs to use this valuable tool for mission education. Many PW leaders have studied the book, *Faith in Action: Understanding Development Ministries from a Christian Perspective*. This book can help mission committees examine how best to allocate their resources towards meeting the world's needs. Both *Embracing God's World* and *Faith in Action* are available through Presbyterian Distribution Service.

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Let us go into the world remembering the words of Christ in *Matthew 25:40*.