

How Your *gifts* Are Used

DISASTER RECOVERY

The PC(USA) works with mid councils and churches to provide immediate support after natural and human-caused disasters. It also assists with long-term recovery efforts, connecting mid councils and churches with resources to help them rebound and thrive.

This emergency ministry enables our congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

International Response

Ukrainian Refugees in Moldova

YMCA Moldova is one of several partners working to respond to needs caused by the Russia/Ukraine war. Projects include services for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, such as mental health, employment service, and legal support for more than 9,000 beneficiaries, and establishing a safe and inclusive space for youth and refugees with a hub for personal development and a wide range of free services to support education, digital skills, mental health and employability.

Ghana

Widespread flooding along the downstream banks of the lower Volta River affected more than 26,000 individuals who lost homes, possessions and livelihoods. The PC(USA) partnered with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana to provide relief items such as cereals and grains, water, clothing, tinned fish, milo, cooking oil, mattresses, tomato paste, menstrual products, mosquito coils, hygiene items and other toiletries.

National

Puerto Rico

Solar panels and energy storage batteries were purchased and installed in a Resilience Hub, where the community can charge electronic devices and medical equipment and/or refrigerate medications during emergencies.

Southern California Wildfires

Southern California faced multiple fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. More than 35,000 acres burned and destroyed more than 16,000 structures. An initial grant from the PC(USA) provided immediate support for urgent needs. National Response Team members were deployed to provide a ministry of presence, assist with ongoing assessments and help match identified needs with appropriate resources to expedite recovery resources.



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HUNGER RELIEF

The PC(USA) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes, working through relationships and partnerships in the United States and around the world. As recognized by PC(USA) policies, hunger is an extremely complex phenomenon with economic, political, environmental and social causes. The PC(USA) seeks to find out why people are hungry and to encourage action that will help address the underlying causes.

International Response

Haiti, Mouvement Paysan de Papaye

Empowered 125 farming families in Haiti by providing legal, agricultural and community-building support to combat land encroachment.

Hope Restoration South Sudan

Supported over 20,000 women and girls by raising awareness about gender-based violence, providing vocational training in tailoring and bead-making, and improving economic self-sufficiency to reduce dependency and vulnerability.

National

Ekvn-Yefolec (a Maskoke community in Alabama)

Ekvn-Yefolec is now home to the only fluent-speaking Maskoke children on the planet, thanks to their language immersion schooling program. Additionally, they have successfully rematriated 5,584 acres of traditional Maskoke homelands, bringing their total stewarded land base to 6,824 acres, and have made significant progress in ecological restoration and regenerative agriculture, including silvopasture, tree-planting and restoring southeastern grasslands.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (Immokalee, Florida)

Mobilized 600 marchers on the March for Farmworker Freedom and continues to witness great Fair Trade Program expansion — now in 10 states and working with salmon fisherfolk in Chile, as well as with organizations in the UK and India. A tangible result is that \$50 million in Fair Food premiums have been paid to workers since 2011. In 2024 alone, \$53,576 has been recovered in stolen wages. Forced labor, sexual assault and other forms of abuse have also been virtually eliminated from participating farms.



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POVERTY

The PC(USA) is committed to eradicating systemic poverty and evaluating the forces that push people into poverty and keep them there. This is done by entering into partnership with groups of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people; interacting with presbyteries; helping to facilitate their work; and encouraging a deeper understanding and involvement of the Church in the process of self-development.

International Response

Panama

The Azuero Craft Women Group in Herrera Province provides women with a way to make a living by teaching them how to make handmade crafts. In addition to providing the women with a way to make money, the program helps participants' mental well-being by giving them a way to disconnect from their problems while working with their hands.

Panama

The women of La Victoria formed a group that worked to fulfill their dream of clean and reliable water for 45 families from two Indigenous communities, the Guna Yala and the Emberá. A 25,000-liter tank was built by skilled Panamanian workers, transported by skilled Panamanian drivers and installed by skilled Panamanian engineers

National

Lakota LockUp Project (Rapid City, South Dakota)

The Lakota LockUp Project's mission is to uplift and revitalize Indigenous people impacted by racialized mass incarceration, inequality, and addiction by applying culture, education, ancestral teaching, and innovative approaches to seek justice and healing. "Talking Circles" are a traditional Native approach to healing and wellness that is also an ancient tool for bringing a degree of healing to the mind and spirit. They are safe spaces for community conversation for those affected by the criminal justice system to assuage their trauma.

Taste of Peace "New Neighbors" (Ohio)

This ministry helps refugee women market their sweet and savory treats to farmers market patrons and other customers in the Columbus area. The mission is to work with, assist, and provide equitable opportunities and enfranchisement to the local refugee population within the Greater Columbus area by providing the tools, resources, and opportunities to create economic stability and support for refugee women to be culinary entrepreneurs.



photo courtesy of Mark Davis



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IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION/REFUGEES

Ministry with the Least of These

The work and ministry of PC(USA) offices, advocates, and partners enable the church to provide direct support to those navigating the complexities of the immigration system, advocate for compassionate and just immigration laws and policies, and collaborate with partners who directly respond to these critical and complex issues in a range of communities and settings. Through these ongoing efforts, the PC(USA) seeks to embody Christ's call to justice, compassion, and welcome for all who journey in search of safety and hope.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The program of Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns accompanies all who wish to reflect on, live out, and act on economic and environmental decisions as part of their faith and values. The PC(USA) has created resources and presentations created for reflection on economic and environmental justice issues, including environmental racism.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/hunger-program#featured-resources>



CLIMATE CARE CHALLENGE

As people of faith, we believe that God created this world, called it good and told humans to care for it. We are blessed to have this sacred task.

Burning carbon-based fossil fuels—like coal, oil and natural gas—for our energy produces greenhouse gases which warm the planet. This causes an increase in devastating fires, floods, droughts, and storms. These effects often impact impoverished and vulnerable communities first and most deeply. While not all Presbyterians have the same passion around climate change, we all want a healthy world with clean air and clean water for everyone.

Changes made by us in the U.S. have a greater impact because of our energy usage. Americans use 40% of the world's oil and emit 25% of the world's greenhouse gases, even though we are less than 5% of the world's population. We can and must change these patterns.

In 2006 the General Assembly passed a policy about becoming "carbon neutral." In this policy, Presbyterians are called to take the results of our energy consumption seriously, to pray asking for God's forgiveness and guidance, to reduce energy consumption, and to calculate carbon emissions and offset their negative impact. Children and youth are

passionately acting to protect the earth and their future, and they encourage us in our lives to become protectors of God's creation. As we follow this policy, we can help make this earth a safer place for our children and grandchildren.

We have the knowledge, skills, and resources to reduce our energy consumption and switch to alternative energy sources that are less harmful to the environment. Prompt action and leadership can keep global climate change from causing its worst impacts.

Let's act now to answer God's call!

Carbon neutral achieves a state in which the net amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere is balanced by actions which reduce or offset these emissions.