

**Long-term Church Partnership Fund for
the Presbytery of Yellowstone
established May 22, 2001
Revised June 9, 2026**

The Long-term Church Partnership Fund (LCPF) was established based on a proposal developed collaboratively by the Ministry Unit Presbytery Council and the General Presbyter. The LCPF is a two-pronged approach supporting the development of the Church Partnership project in a way that does not simply provide subsidies for churches but instead seeks to strengthen the long-term financial situation of small congregations. In doing so:

- 1) the presbytery will model financial commitment and creativity in establishing a long-term funding source for the project and
- 2) the criteria for church partnerships will educate and challenge congregations in the areas of stewardship, long-term financial planning, and church revitalization.

Criteria for church partnerships that educate and challenge congregations in the areas of stewardship, long-term financial planning, and church revitalization.

- 1) Per Capita apportionment paid in full.
- 2) Participation in the Basic Mission Giving of the denomination. The percent of the local budget dedicated to Basic Mission Giving is determined jointly with the Ministry Unit. (This is built on the premise that if a church is going to receive mission dollars, they should also know how to give them.)
- 3) Participation in at least two of the three special offerings of the denomination. (One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion, Christmas Joy.)
- 4) Willingness to work with a resource team from the presbytery and/or synod and/or G.A. on stewardship programs, Wills emphasis, funds development, and long-term financial planning. (If the partnership is in financial development)
- 5) Willingness to work with a resource team from the presbytery and/or synod and/or G.A. on evangelism and church growth strategies. (If the partnership is in church growth.)
- 6) Establishment of clear and realistic goals tied directly to the use of the Church Partnership funds.
- 7) All Church Partnership funds are matching on either a 1 to 1 ratio or a 2 (presbytery) to 1 (church) ratio. The match ratio will be determined jointly between the Ministry Unit and the Session. Matching funds from a church must be above and beyond the current level of giving within the congregation.

Potential areas of partnership:

- 1) Staff salary support to maintain or expand the level of pastoral time in a church. The partnership project may provide funds to help with compensation. Such support may be connected to specific tasks or objectives within the job description of the staff person.
- 2) Funds development. Seed money for permanent endowments may be encouraged by matching grants. Strategies for developing the funds, and a mission focus for using the funds, are formulated in partnership with the presbytery.
- 3) Spiritual development. Partnership funds may be used to provide external leadership for spiritual renewal programs within a church. Such programs will have clear goals related to leadership development, community building, and faith walk.
- 4) Evangelism/outreach. Contextually sensitive programs of evangelism that help congregations move from survival to revival may be supported by partnership funds.