

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

MISSION HANDBOOK



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Compiled by
Mission and Kairos Teams

SOCIAL JUSTICE

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve. (Albert Schweitzer)

What are the best ways we can *love kindness, do justice and walk humbly with our God?* (Micah 6:8)

It is a question we are never done asking or answering.

Grace Covenant acts to ease immediate suffering, but also seeks to bring justice to the economic, racial and class systems that prevent people from enjoying safe housing, good education, healthy food, equal rights and adequate medical care.

We long for a world of clean air and water and for a human family inspired by its shared love of earth.

We long for a world where love is love and those of minority sexual orientation are treated with equality both inside and outside the church walls. We will be a sanctuary for all those who are “different” until the world itself is a sanctuary for all God’s wonderfully diverse and differently-abled children.

In Johnson County, in Kansas City, in all parts of America facing a struggle and in places like Haiti, Kenya, Belize, and Guatemala, our money, goods and hours support organizations in making earth “like it is in heaven.” Every month offers new opportunities for us to feed the hungry, house the homeless and offer tangible comfort and hope to those who need it most.

Social Justice is not an activity we do. It is a vital part of who we are and who we long to be.

It is through serving others, making peace and bringing justice that we draw closest to Jesus. *“The work that heals us,*

connects us to all our brothers and sisters and grounds us in the love of our Creator.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.
He is the Maker of heaven and earth
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.
He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,
the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Psalm 146:5-9 (NIV)

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* Indicates programs that are funded by the current year Outreach Team budget. The Outreach Team allocates funds for partner agencies based on annual budgetary review.

****Arabic Presbyterian Fellowship***

arabchurchkc.org/

Arabic Presbyterian fellowship is a spiritual and social ministry to the Arabic-speaking people in Kansas City. It is a religious and social ministry under the supervision of the Heartland Presbytery PC(USA). Arabic Presbyterian fellowship services Arabs who live in the Kansas City and metropolitan area by providing worship services for all ages, counseling, pastoral care, and social activities and services. The fellowship assists new immigrants and refugees from the Middle East.

We look forward to reaching new families and incorporate them into the worship and work of the church. We desire to grow spiritually, expand our services and extend our social services for new families.

Argentine United Presbyterian Baby Closet

The Argentine United Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Kansas provides baby items for children ages birth to two. Items include baby formula (Similac preferred), baby food, strollers and car seats, diapers, and new or gently used clothing. The program also accepts monetary donations.

The Outreach Team occasionally provides money from its annual budget for the Baby Closet and often coordinates collection of donated items.

****Baptismal Promise***

The Baptismal Promise program gives our youths-and the congregation the opportunity to fulfill the promises made at

baptism. The Baptismal Promise serves to help children grow in the church under the spiritual guidance of the entire church family.

The program offers funds for individuals or groups to participate in an activity directed toward self-development, such as theological seminary, or community development by leading a mission project.

The Outreach Team annually reserves funds for the Baptismal Promise program

Bread for the World

www.bread.org

Hunger reduction is the ultimate goal of the Bread for the World program. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. Based in Washington, D.C., it provides a means for citizens to sign a petition that urges Congress to take specific actions to help people obtain and use resources to feed themselves. The congregation may communicate with their congressmen to urge support for programs to end hunger.

Caring For Kids/Rosehill Elementary School

www.rosehill.smsd

The Outreach Team has recently approved partnering with Rosehill Elementary (a Title I designated school) in the Shawnee Mission School District. Rev. Jonas Hayes was contacted by the new Superintendent of the SMSD to become part of the School Partnership Roundtable in connecting with Caring for Kids KC.

This initiative connects faith-based organizations with neighborhood schools in an effort to help identify needs within the school and to provide resources and in-kind support. GCPC is partnering with Rosehill Elementary along with Salem Lutheran Church and Cedar Ridge Christian Church. Initial projects will include providing tutors and mentors for the afterschool program, lunch buddies, and donation of Apple iPads.

****Central Asia Institute***

<https://www.ikat.org/>

Central Asia Institute empowers communities of Central Asia through literacy and education, especially for girls, promotes peace through education, and conveys the importance of these activities globally. The organization builds new schools or improves existing ones, offers educational scholarships, and provides stable funding for teachers. In conjunction with education projects, if necessary, CAI assists with critical needs such as clean water, health care, and disaster relief.

Central Kansas Military Foundation

The Central Kansas Military Community Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 2010 which deals with human services for military personnel and their families. They are classified as an educational organization with family services as their purpose. CKMCF offers grants to service men and women of Fort Riley and their families who face financial hardships. This aid may enable the wife of an injured soldier to travel to visit him in the hospital or help pay for nursing assistance when he comes home.

GCPC hosts an annual barbecue/grilling cook-off to benefit CKCMF financially.

Cents-Ability

Cents-Ability is a small program that helps eliminate hunger and poverty. It also represents an activity in which all members of a congregation can contribute a few cents at every meal to express thanks for what they have received.

Since its origin with Presbyterian Women in 1976 as “Two-Cents-A-Meal,” the Cents-Ability program has grown into one that supports other national or international hunger programs of the Presbyterian Hunger Programs.

Major activities include development assistance for poor and hungry people to help themselves, public policy advocacy to encourage governments to respond to the needs of hungry people, and provision of hunger education-

Grace Covenant members contribute pennies for meals served at GCPC, using Cents-Ability offering boxes on meal tables. Individuals and families may save money at home and add it to the collection jar on the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

Children’s Foundation of Mid-America *www.keepingkidsfirst.org/*

The Children’s Foundation of Mid-America, from its offices in St. Louis, Missouri, offers services to children using its residential, independent living, foster care, and mentoring programs. The children may be abused and neglected and, according to literature from the Children’s Foundation of Mid-America, may have “lived through terrible life experiences and come to trust no one.”

****Children’s Nutrition Program of Haiti***

www.cnphaiti.org/

The Children’s Nutrition Program (CNP) of Haiti is a non-denominational faith-based organization that states that its “mission is to improve the health and development of Haitian children, particularly those suffering from malnutrition.” The CNP works to achieve this mission in partnership with other Haitians by:

- Empowering mothers and other caregivers through community-based health and nutrition education, using locally available resources.
- Providing direct health care, including referral to therapeutic rehabilitation for severely malnourished children, mobile medical clinics, and community treatment of pneumonia and rheumatic fever.
- Supporting health-related community development programs, such as increasing access to safe water to prevent diarrhea and other water-borne illnesses.

Dr. Mitch Mutter, a cardiologist from Chattanooga, Tennessee, founded the CNP in 1998 after repeated medical mission trips to Haiti. The nutrition program, with the support of individuals and churches in Chattanooga, began to address infant and child malnutrition in Leogane, Haiti. GCPC makes contributions to the CNP using funds from its annual budget and periodic fundraising, particularly at Christmas time. CNP was the partner for the GCPC 2012 International Mission Trip.

****Christmas International House***

Christmas International House was founded in 1965 as a Christian ministry designed to offer hospitality to international students studying in the U.S. and spending Christmas away from their homes. Students who participate have an opportunity to visit an American home and become acquainted with different holiday traditions and geographical locations. Participants in this peacemaking program form relationships with those from different backgrounds and ideologies.

The program locally is directed by Village Presbyterian Church. Families from many local churches serve as hosts. Grace Covenant hosts a supper/square dance event for the students during the holidays.

Church Women United

Church Women United (CWU) is a major influence on the mission program of Presbyterian Women. “Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement, celebrating unity and diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.” Founded in 1941, Church Women United is a movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women. The organization consists of more than 1,200 local and state units in the United States and Puerto Rico.

CWU provides planned gatherings to celebrate specific events that occur during the year, such as The World Day of Prayer. CWU gatherings also provide a mechanism to share information about the need for new mission programs or the status of existing mission programs. CWU requests material

and human resources to establish and maintain mission programs. Examples of major program agenda include the following:

- Advocacy for programs that identify the global impact of climate change.
- Conduction of programs that address gender equality, promote economic justice, and foster dignity, safe environments, equitable market conditions, and living wages for all people.
- The planning of actions that contribute to the full enforcement of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.
- Establishment and maintenance of programs that support implementation of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals to end extreme poverty in the United States and worldwide by 2015.
- Support of programs that promote peace.

Presbyterian Women at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church participate in information gatherings, and provide volunteers and monetary support for CWU mission programs.

The Presbyterian Women at GCPC participate in the offering of the Least Coin, a major mission program of the CWU.

Cornerstones of Care
(Give What You Got Program)
www.cornerstonesofcare.org

Cornerstones of Care is an organization of Kansas City agencies providing a comprehensive range of specialized treatment services to at-risk children and families in Missouri and Kansas. Services may include:

- Foster and adoption services.
- Acceptance of donations through the Give What You Got Program. This program provides necessities for comfort-care packages upon entry into the program. It also provides items for special events, such as holidays and birthdays.
- Cornerstones of Care also accepts items for the Pathways Program. This program gives clients, living in selected apartments and engaged in the Pathways Program, donations of bedding, bathroom items, electronics, kitchen items, hygiene and first aid items.

GCPC participates in the Give What You Got portion of the program. The congregation may also make monetary donations to the organization to purchase necessary items and may occasionally donate items for the Pathways Program.

Community Blood Center
www.savealifenow.org

Several times per year GCPC conducts a community blood drive to benefit the Community Blood Center. CBC's mission

is to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood components to meet the transfusion needs of patients in our community.

As an independent, not-for-profit organization, Community Blood Center is an active participant member with America's Blood Centers (ABC).

Covenant Network

covnetpres.org/

The board and staff of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians want to move the direction of the church toward a more generous, just, and faithfully inclusive church. The group addresses issues such as ordination standards and “the full inclusion of all whom God calls to ordained leadership in the church.”

CROP Walk

www.cwsglobal.org/

Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,600 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 walks in the last two decades. Funds may be used to provide nutrition packets for children, clean water, agricultural tools and training, livestock, or hunger education. Twenty-five percent of funds raised benefit the local community where they are used to support local food banks, pantries, community gardens and other hunger-fighting initiatives.

The congregation of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church participates in the annual Crop Walk drive through fundraising and walking.

****Duchesne Clinic***

www.duchesneclinic.org/

The Duchesne Clinic is a primary care doctors' office for low-income, uninsured residents of Wyandotte County. Services include primary health care, medication assistance, and chronic disease management.

The Grace Covenant congregation, as part of the annual planned giving, contributes funds, health care supplies and over-the-counter medications.

Gifts of Grace

Gifts of Grace is an “Inreach” program of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church designed to help members who are facing financial stress. The program was established in 2005 by a deacon who saw a need to help a family dealing with out-of-town cancer treatments. It has been used through the years to assist with rent, utilities, medical expenses, Christmas gifts, and other needs caused by illness, job loss, or other difficulties. There is an annual fundraiser at the chili dinner on Thanksgiving Eve. Other contributions are made by members, often those who have received help in the past who are hoping to “pay it forward.”

GCPC Youth

gcpc.org/children-youth/

As disciples of Christ we feel called to serve and care for those around us. By providing numerous opportunities for our

youth to serve others we encourage them to begin a life of service, living as Christ exemplified and sharing the gospel through our actions.

Our youth collect food and money on Super Bowl Sunday. Most recently, donations have been specifically for teens in our community who don't have the resources to eat regular healthy meals.

GCPC youth are involved in caring for other people and also for the environment. They have programs to recycle newspapers and aluminum cans. The money raised from recyclables goes toward reducing the cost for youth to participate in mission trips and other opportunities.

Service to others is the focus of our yearly Mission & Music (M&M) trip during which our youth serve the needs of people in other communities through labor and music. 8th-12th grade students are included in this opportunity. Our 2012 trip took us to the Chicago area. Our 2012 international mission trip took us to Haiti to serve with the Children's Nutrition Project.

Youth in 11th and 12th grades were invited to participate with adults in this inspiring and laborious week.

****Grace-In-Action***

Grace-In-Action is a quarterly outreach activity that gives church members a tangible means of helping others. The multi-faceted activities have included gleaned agricultural products, packaging food items for donations, assembling Care Kits for Heart-to-Heart International, sewing dresses, preparing and serving a meal at Grace United Church and preparing homemade Valentines for patients at Children's Mercy Hospital.

GCPC members volunteer time to help with the selected Grace-in-Action activities and the Outreach Team budget covers related costs for supplies.

****Grace United Community Ministries***

www.graceunitedkc.org

The Grace United Food Pantry & Clothes Closet program states that its mission is “to feed the hungry, provide clothes for those in need, and create a ‘trust relationship’ that can lead people to Jesus Christ and make positive changes in their lives.”

Using community volunteers, the organization:

- Gives a three-day supply of food to people who have emergency needs;
- Collects packaged foods from churches, Harvesters, and government commodities;
- Collects and distributes perishable foods from supermarkets on a daily basis; and
- Collects and prepares donations of used clothing
GCPC collects packaged, non-perishable foods year-round for donation to the Grace United Food Pantry and provides occasional monetary assistance.

Granola Bars for Shawnee Mission Schools

In 2011 Kansas ranked 7th in the country for homeless students. Despite being part of one of the wealthiest counties in the country, we do have homelessness in Johnson County.

It's been estimated that more than 300 children are homeless and/or go to school hungry. It's been reported that daily 78 children whose parents were Shawnee Mission School District residents are picked up by taxi at KCMO homeless shelters and delivered to their schools in SMSD. Many of those children do not receive breakfast or refuse to partake of the school provided breakfasts to avoid the stigma attached. Recently some school nurses have started stocking granola bars to distribute to needy hungry children. GCPC provided donations of funds and granola bars to assist with this program.

Harvesters

www.harvesters.org

Harvesters collects food and household products from community and industrial areas and distributes these products to a network of nutritional services. It also offers leadership and educational programs to increase awareness of hunger and provide strategies to alleviate hunger.

Harvesters is a certified member of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks serving all 50 states. According to one Harvesters data resource, the local food bank includes more than 620 non-profit agencies throughout the 26-county direct-service area.

The congregation of GCPC donates food through related planned-collection events each year.

****Habitat Aid Initiative***

<http://www.habitataid.org>

Founded by Walter Dean, Habitat Aid Initiative is a program for the people in western Kenya, who face specific daily living

problems. To achieve the vision and commitment to help the population of Kenya create sustainable communities, the program uses objectives in six key areas: agriculture, education, water and sanitation, health care, gender mainstreaming, and capacity building.

Completed projects include numerous water point site installations. In addition, supplies and construction assistance have been provided to several primary and secondary schools as well as to several local health clinics.

Habitat for Humanity

www.habitat.org

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 and today is a world leader in addressing the issues of poverty housing. Habitat is an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization with the mission to eliminate poverty housing by building simple, decent, and affordable housing.

Habitat and its many volunteers have helped build or repair more than 600,000 houses on five continents.

Local offices act in partnership with and on behalf of Habitat for Humanity International. Local office functions include fund-raising, building site selection, partner family selection and support, house construction and mortgage servicing. Habitat also operates Re-Stores from which they sell donated building goods.

GCPC has funded and participated in the construction of several Habitat homes.

Happy Bottoms

www.happybottoms.org

Happy Bottoms collects and buys diapers at highly discounted rates from nonprofit channels such as Harvesters. Diapers are then given to partner agencies, which distribute them among the families they serve.

The congregation of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church donates diapers to Happy Bottoms through related planned-collection events each year.

Heartland Conference Center

www.heartlandcenter.org

Heartland Center is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Heartland Presbytery, and the Northern Kansas Presbytery. The center offers a site and environment in which youth from grades 2 to 12 can gain the foundation for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, interact with other children, participate in enjoyable activities, and ensure that all campers understand that they are loved as a child of God. Heartland Center holds accreditation from the American Camp Association.

The congregation at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church reviews the camp program and activities, and registers family members as camp participants. Because Heartland Center believes that every child should have the opportunity to attend camp, it offers scholarship assistance, using gifts from individuals and churches.

Heart to Heart International

www.hearttoheart.org

Heart to Heart International is a faith friendly organization, based in Olathe, Kansas, which helps those in need in the U.S. and the developing world. Heart to Heart assists in disaster response. It provides emergency medical care, personal care kits and medication for those affected by natural disasters in the U.S. and abroad. Heart to Heart was deeply involved in the 2004 Tsunami, the 2010 Haitian earthquake and 2010 Chilean earthquake and Fukushima disaster in Japan.

It has immediately responded to US natural disasters including the Joplin, Greenberg, Alabama and Oklahoma tornados as well as Super Storm Sandy and Hurricane Katrina. It is deeply committed to development and the establishment of primary care clinics in Haiti. Heart to Heart also provides medications for qualified organizations at a fraction of retail costs.

GCPC members donate supplies for and volunteer to assemble care kits.

****Health Partnership of Johnson County***

www.hpcjc.org

The Health Partnership of Johnson County serves low-income uninsured residents of Johnson County. The Health Partnership Clinic is Johnson County's largest safety-net clinic and the only one providing care free of charge to this population. The clinic opened its Overland Park location in 1992 to provide primary acute and limited chronic care.

The Health Partnership operates five programs including medical home, dental care, pharmaceutical, specialty referral, and Medicaid enrollment.

****International Mission Trips***

The GCPC group that plans International Mission Trips selects sites outside of the United States. Many of the activities planned at selected sites include assistance in water treatment programs to provide safe drinking water, construction of houses and school buildings, provision of latrines, and outpatient therapeutic care. These trips are open to juniors and seniors in high school, college students, and adults of all ages.

The Outreach Team annually reviews the need to support international mission trips based on identified needs, and allocates funds to support mission trips. The Outreach Team plans use of human and monetary resources to meet specific needs of communities (local, regional, national, and international) when disasters occur.

****Interfaith Hospitality Network***

www.jocoihn.org/

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is an interfaith community that provides assistance for homeless families in Johnson County, using a network of religious affiliates. Assistance to homeless families includes housing, meals, life skills, and social interaction.

GCPC, as a primary religious affiliate, donates funds and, periodically, non-monetary goods, such as furniture. The congregation serves as a primary host for one week for up to 14 people four times a year.

In addition, GCPC holds a rummage sale every other year, with the proceeds usually going to the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Members may also participate in the Interfaith Hospitality community-sponsored events designed to secure additional funding for the program.

****Johnson County Christmas Bureau (Holiday Shop)***

www.jccb.org/

The Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB) is a non-profit, non-denominational agency created in 1960 as an “adopt-a-family” project by the Shawnee Mission chapter of AAUW. In 1977 the Holiday Shop was introduced and has grown to provide holiday assistance (groceries, personal care items, clothing, coats, books, toys and gifts) to qualified low-income Johnson County residents. Clients, who are referred by many social service agencies, fill out an application and upon arrival are given an appointment to shop. In 2012 JCCB served 3461 families (12,965 individuals ranging in age from newborn to 90.) All items, with the exception of coats, are new. Clients shop with the assistance of a volunteer. A small “dignity fee” is charged.

Volunteers work year-round shopping for discounted items, staffing the office and preparing the shop at a donated location. JCCB is 100% dependent on community support. GCPC provides donated items, volunteers, and funding from the Outreach Team budget.

Kairos

Kairos, a GCPC Team, and Outreach Team have many missions that overlap but each with a slightly different focus. As Outreach attempts to help and financially support-Kairos

advocates and encourages each member of the congregation to become an active voice for all that are living in God's creation. Kairos three-fold mission is to advocate for Peacemaking, Social, and Environmental Justice in the world as directed by the General Assembly of PC(USA).

Kairos meets at the church the second Sunday of each month at noon. Issues may include areas such as these: social and economic justice, peace, education, civil rights, recycling, environmental restoration, fair trade, GLBT, poverty, homelessness, and politics. KAIROS makes a difference by becoming involved and linking with others in GCPC, Kansas City, and world community with similar interests. Everyone is welcome.

The following programs are currently organized or sponsored by the Kairos Team.

Earth Care

www.presbyearthcare.org/advocacy-programs.html.

January, 2011 marked the historic time during which Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church received the distinguished honor, recognition, and approval as an Earth Care Congregation. Earth Care congregations have the distinct task to integrate earth care into all facets of church life. Earth Care congregations affirm the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thought to complete projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

GCPC is committed to responsible care for the world God has created. Our members encouraged Session to take the "Earth Care Pledge" integrating environmental practices and thinking into all facets of our congregational life – worship, education,

facilities and outreach. KAIROS is the GCPC organization that works toward environmental care.

Project Greenway

Sponsored by Kairos Team, Project Greenway is a sustainable fashion show event to raise money for a local non-profit along with demonstrating creative ways to repurpose used clothing into new fashions. This is a community event and contestants from both the church and the community are invited to participate. Contestants compete for cash prizes that are funded by entry fees. Completed outfits are judged on wearability, transformation, cost of used items, creativity and quality of construction.

****Kansas City Kansas Hot Lunch***

Kansas City Kansas Hot Lunch program serves individuals and families by providing a hot lunch on Saturdays. Community organizations donate food and volunteer time to prepare and serve the hot lunch.

St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church prepare the main dish casseroles for the lunch on the third Saturday of each month, the designated time for Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church to help serve the lunch. In addition to the provision of dessert for this meal, GCPC members serve on the food line and engage in post-meal activities. The Outreach Team annual budget helps fund GCPC participation.

KVC Behavioral Health Care

www.kvc.org

KVC is a subsidiary of KVC Health Systems, Incorporated, a non-profit corporation that provides medical and behavioral health care, social services, and education to children and

families. Kansas is one of five states that offer this network of services.

In the state of Kansas, 14 office locations offer an extensive network of services, such as foster care, child welfare, behavioral health, school-based family services, and psychiatric care for children.

The Outreach Team periodically collects monetary donations or other items for donation to KVC and the children it serves.

Little Sisters of the Poor

www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/

In 1839, two penitents of Abbé Augustine Marie Le Pailleur, at his direction, added to their daily duties the personal care and support of a poor, blind woman. Eventually, in the search for lodging for this woman, they met Jeanne Jugan, a woman who opened her home to them. Jeanne Jugan wanted to share in the charitable work of these two women, Marie Jamat and Virginie Trédaniel.

Today, there are Little Sisters of the Poor centers in 31 countries around the world, providing services for the impoverished elderly. Some of the centers in the Kansas City area include units that offer the following services:

- Assisted living
- Alzheimer's care
- Independent living
- Nursing care

The Little Sisters of the Poor accepts individual donations. The Outreach Team makes occasional monetary and in-kind gifts to the Little Sisters of the Poor from its annual budget.

Maya Quiché

The Maya Quiché Presbytery in Guatemala contains 22 churches. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has more than a 100-year history with the Presbyterian Church in Guatemala, helping to educate indigenous pastors and church workers in theological and secular education.

The Evangelical Committee for Service and Support of Maya Quiché Presbytery provides a ministry of church planning, literacy, theological education, advocacy for community health, and agricultural, economic, and developmental projects.

The Guatemala Mission Network is one of 25 networks that connect Presbyterians, who share common mission intent. According to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Mission Council, networks meet to coordinate efforts, share best practices, and develop strategies.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church serves as a partner in the Maya Quiché Presbytery.

Music for Jeremy's Cherubs

music4jeremyscherubs.com

Jeremy Frye was a GCPC member and lifelong musical student who lost his life to a brain tumor in 2008 after graduating from Baker University. He was prepared to begin fulfilling his vision-his first teaching job, giving back to children and youth what he had gained through his music. His

zest for life was a beacon to all who knew him. His family and friends are dedicated to carrying out his vision of bringing music to the lives of needy children.

M4JC Foundation works to obtain financial support and new and used instruments. Used instruments are refurbished, repaired and distributed to those who need them locally, nationally and internationally, including Warrior Cry Music Project and Guitars 4 Troops. M4JC also provides scholarship for music students.

GCPC hosts the annual J. Frye Funfest to benefit this foundation.

Pathway to Hope

www.pathwaytohope.org

Pathway to Hope was founded by Dick and Sharon Lawrenz in December 2000, in response to their struggles with the Mental Health System after their son was diagnosed with a mental illness in 1988. They believed that no one should have to deal with the “unchartered waters of mental illness alone.” They felt that they could help others find their way through the system.

They established Blake House to provide affordable housing for up to six residents living with mental illness, but were stable and responding to treatment. Most share a room and all share in maintaining the home, cooking, etc... They learn and practice skills for daily independent living and have weekly sessions with a support group. The Lawrenz’s hope is to add more homes in the future.

Pastor's Benevolence Fund

The Outreach Team annually designates funds for the Pastor's Benevolence Fund, and periodically determines the need for additional funds. The Pastor's Benevolence Fund is a discretionary program administered by the GCPC pastors. This fund may help any individual or family, who expresses an urgent need in meeting daily living requirements, such as food, medicine, rent, and/or utilities.

****Presbyterian Church USA General Mission Agency***
www.presbyterianmission.org

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is the ministry and mission agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Five ministry areas carry out missional work: Compassion, Peace and Justice; Evangelism and Church Growth; Racial, Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women; Theology, Worship and Education; and World Mission. Together with Shared Services, Communications, and Funds Development, these ministry areas work to inspire, equip, and connect all Presbyterians for the church's work.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency develops and proposes, for the General Assembly approval, the mission directions, goals, objectives, and priorities of the Presbyterian Mission Agency; taking into account the mission work being done by sessions, presbyteries, and synods, and proposes for General Assembly approval an accompanying budget that will implement the mission work plans of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Dozens of programs are operated through Presbyterian Mission. A sample of those directly supported by GCPC includes the following:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Presbyterian Peacemaking Program
- Multicultural Congregational Support
- Fair Trade
- Presbyterian Women
- World Mission Program
- Self-Development of People

Approximately 4 % of funding for Presbyterian Mission comes from Per Capita payments. The majority is obtained through shared and direct mission support, church-wide special offerings, endowments, and bequests. GCPC contributes to the Per Capita fund each year, participates in special offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing, and in addition, the Outreach Team contributes a substantial portion of its budget to PC (USA) Shared Mission.

Church members interested in making individual contributions are encouraged to visit the Presbyterian Mission Agency website, which offers a wealth of giving opportunities. In addition, during times of worldwide natural disasters, the website offers direct methods of support.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministires/pda

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It derives its core budget, including staff and administrative costs and program work, through the One Great Hour of Sharing and other designated gifts. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance defines a disaster as “any occurrence, such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, tidal wave, fire explosion,

contamination, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused event that produces human suffering or creates human needs that survivors cannot alleviate without assistance.”

PDA’s mission is stated as enabling congregations and mission partners of PC(USA) “to witness the healing love of Christ” by caring for communities suffering from crisis and catastrophic events.

PDA maintains a base in 80 countries and works directly with Church World Service (CWS) and Action by Churches Together (ACT) in addition to Presbyterian and reformed churches.

The Outreach Team allocates a percentage of their budget annually in support of PDA and may contribute additional funds to individual disaster relief needs as they occur. We also respond to local/regional disaster needs with the collection and distribution of specific items and volunteer activities/mission trips.

****The Presbyterian Education Board***

www.peb.edu.pk/

The first educational work of the United Presbyterian Mission started when E. H. Stevenson took over the Primary School in Sialkot, Punjab Province, Pakistan from a CMS missionary in 1856. The Sialkot Mission devoted most of its educational and evangelistic efforts to the village people who were “untouchable” and very poor. The most promising children were promoted to the Christian Training Institute, opened in 1881 as a feeder for the seminary. Joining several other boys and girls schools, this grew into the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB.)

In 1972 some of these schools were taken over by the Pakistani government, resulting in poor education and buildings in disrepair. In 1998 the government began to return the schools to the PEB, which in 2012 had a pass rate of 96% with 5 of 8 schools achieving a 100% rate. There are waiting lists of students to be admitted. Funding is critical and donations are needed.

Presbyterian Women

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/about/

Birthday Offering

Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sponsor the Birthday Offering. This offering supports specific mission projects worldwide, not already supported by the General Assembly mission funds. Recipients include programs for criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence prevention, women's concerns, agricultural development, child care, and community organization. GCPC participates in the annual Birthday Offering event.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Since 1956, the Fellowship of the Least Coin stands as a dynamic worldwide fellowship in over 80 countries. The underlying goal is to ask Presbyterian women to pray for reconciliation in their homes, communities, nation, and world, and to work for peace and justice. Fellowship of the Least Coin encourages Presbyterian women to "set-aside" the least coin (a penny in U.S. currency) as a token of action supporting prayer, and demonstrating solidarity with Fellowship of the Least Coin participants all over the world.

All women at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church can contribute to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Local church circle meetings provide a structured means for collecting the Least Coins. The funds provide grants for projects and programs that benefit women throughout the world.

Thank Offering

The Thank Offering is one of the two annual offerings sponsored by Presbyterian Women. This offering provides funds for creative mission projects, giving sixty percent of its funds to a wide range of mission activities.

These projects may include agricultural, economic, eldercare, and women's concerns. For example, Presbyterian Women awarded a grant to a community in Chiapas, Guatemala, to regain control of its economic destiny and to participate in a just and fair exchange for its coffee. The remaining forty percent of the funds support healthcare initiatives. Presbyterian Women and the congregation at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church support the Thank Offering by contributing to the annual fund.

**Prison Ministries*

In 2012 the Outreach Team began considering whether GCPC should develop a Prison Ministry. Though final plans have not been made, the following actions have been completed: Funding of GED books for Lansing State Correctional Facility, purchase of Life Recovery Bibles for current and former prisoners, collaboration with the GCPC Adult Education Team to plan an adult education class focusing on Prison Ministries, and collaborating with the Prison Ministry Group at Atonement Lutheran Church to attend monthly group meetings and worship at each other's church.

Project Peanut Butter

www.projectpeanutbutter.org

Mark Manary, M.D., a pediatrician at St. Louis Children's Hospital, is responsible for the development of a highly nutritious, high protein, lipid-dense meal to use in a feeding system for severely malnourished young children in Malawi, Africa. This mixture of ground roasted peanuts, vegetable oil, powdered milk, vitamins, minerals, and sugar requires no refrigeration and tastes good so mothers can use it in their homes and children willingly eat it.

The project involvement increased when 90% of the children recovered from malnutrition in Malawi. Collaboration with agencies such as UNICEF facilitated the spread of use of this system across Africa. The project also received endorsement of the World Health Organization, the World Food Program, and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition.

GCPC has supported this project by helping to fund two manufacturing facilities in Sierra Leone.

Red Bag Christmas

During the Christmas season, on an annual basis, fostered children under the age of 18 in the Kansas City metropolitan area have the opportunity to request specific Christmas gifts. In the Red Bag program, the selected group of young persons live under deprived social and economic situations.

The congregation at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church select a data sheet containing the children's names, ages, desired gifts, and helpful purchase information. After purchase of the requested items, participating members return the holiday-wrapped gifts to the church for delivery to the young people.

reStart

www.restartinc.org/

Created in 1984 at Grand Avenue Temple, United Methodist Church, in Kansas City, Missouri, reStart, Inc. is an interfaith ministry that helps homeless people. reStart provides a multitude of services for youths, adults, and families, who have a variety of needs. These services include programs to meet emergency, immediate, transitional, permanent, and daily and long-term supportive needs. Examples of these programs include the following:

- Overnight emergency shelter for youth, women, men, and families.
- Transitional living for youths and adults for specific periods of time.
- Permanent supportive housing at specific sites for chronically homeless adults.
- Individuals using these services can receive education necessary to access health care and live a healthy lifestyle. Supportive services also include participation in chemical-dependency support groups, life skills classes, and access to HIV/AIDS care. Mental health services consist of assessment and counseling for youths, families, and adults.

GCPC has provided monetary support for the reStart program in the past and the congregation has donated items such as used clothing.

SAFEHOME

www.safehome-ks.org

The mission of SAFEHOME is to break the cycle of domestic violence and partner abuse for victims and their children by

providing shelter, advocacy, counseling, and prevention education in the Kansas City metro community.

Among its many services, SAFEHOME offers a 4-hour domestic abuse hotline, emergency shelter, counseling and legal services.

Soles 4 Souls

soles4soles.org

From its world headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, the Soles 4 Souls organization provides shoes for children who are without shoes around the world. Retailers, shoe companies, group and civic organizations, schools, churches, and individuals can donate new and used shoes. Soles 4 Souls will also accept cash donations.

The GCPC congregation participates in the collection of new and used shoes and transports them to the sheltered workshop in Iowa for processing and shipment around the world.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, with a prayer given by Reverend Brad Smith at the Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina. This nationwide program uses youth activities to collect monetary and food donations during the week prior to Super Bowl Sunday. Selected local hunger relief programs receive the collections of money and food.

The youth at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church design programs to collect money and food, and sponsor informational sessions to increase the congregation's awareness of community hunger.

****SowHope***

www.sowhope.org

Since its inception in 2006, SowHope has positively impacted the lives of more than 35,000 women in ten countries by providing opportunities for impoverished women through AIDS care and prevention, maternal and women's healthcare, literacy training and micro economic opportunities. Their strategy is to partner with local leaders, using local solutions to solve local problems. SowHope's target population is the 1.5 billion women who make less than \$2 per day. The GCPC Outreach Team currently contributes funding through the annual budget.

Special Offerings

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeks "more effective ways to serve Christ's church and fulfill God's will in sharing the love and peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, throughout the world." Special offerings support Presbyterian mission year-round. The church wide special offerings include the Christmas Joy Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking Offering, and the Pentecost Offering. Grace Covenant participates in the collection of these offerings.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The offering supports provision of specific needs, using the following distribution plan: The Board of Pensions receives 50% of the offering to provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. Through the General Assembly Council Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic education receives 50% of the offering.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Christians around the world also participate in this offering. The offering's gifts help people in the following ways: Ministries for disaster response, refugee and resettlement programs, community development programs, and global hunger ministries.

Fund designations in the United States and 66 countries are as follows: Presbyterian Hunger Program thirty-six percent, Self-Development of People thirty-two percent, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance thirty-two percent.

Peacemaking Offering

This offering, usually received on World Communion Sunday, supports the efforts of Presbyterians to work for peace through their congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly.

The offering allocates the funds for distribution in the following ways: Twenty-five percent for our congregation, twenty-five percent for our presbytery and synod, and the remaining fifty percent for General Assembly ministries.

Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering, the fourth special offering collected, represents one of the most significant events in the life of the Christian church. This offering is one way of enhancing a congregation's awareness of the broader church that represents God and His Kingdom. The PC(USA) receives 60% of this offering to minister to children at risk through child advocacy, and to nurture the faith of young people through their Youth

Ministry and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities. This program has 16 sites in the United States and abroad, and requires that volunteers, ages 19 to 30 years of age, serve one year.

The local church, GCPC, maintains 40% of the Pentecost Offering. The Outreach Team, with congregational feedback, determines the best use to serve our local, national, or global communities. The congregation at Grace Covenant Church contributes annually to the offering.

Sunflower House

www.sunflowerhouse.org/

Sunflower House, a Child Abuse Prevention Center, is a non-profit United Way agency serving Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. Their mission is to protect children from physical and sexual abuse through education, advocacy, forensic and medical services. After a report of child abuse has been made, they work with police and child protective service social workers and talk with the abused child in a safe, child-centered location. Frequently there will be a medical evaluation. Sunflower House will provide necessary prescriptions and referrals to physicians, if needed.

Sunflower House staff also explain the child protection and legal systems to the family and host educational meetings for educators, professionals, and companies.

TLC for Children and Families

www.kidstlc.org/

TLC for Children and Families, founded by the Johnson County Young Matrons in 1972, works to preserve family living units and help families live enriched lives in safe

environments. Program activities provide shelter and social services to children from infancy through age eighteen. The participants include children of all ages experiencing abuse, neglect, or family disruption. In some situations, the organization may provide the only emergency shelter for shelter in Johnson County until they obtain a permanent, stable home.

The organization located in Olathe, Kansas, has the following program components and family services: residential services, such as emergency shelter and community-based services, which could include family case management.

The organization conducts community special events to enrich the lives of the participants and expose the community to its program.

****Uplift***
www.uplift.org

Since 1991, the Uplift Organization, Incorporated, dedicates its efforts toward the support of the homeless, and continues to give items to meet basic human needs with care and compassion. The organization accepts donations of money, food, and warming items, such as blankets.

Page Turners, a small group at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, provides the primary leadership for monthly preparation and delivery of meals to persons in the Kansas City area.

Veronica's Voice

www.veronicasvoice.org

Veronica's Voice is Kansas City's only advocacy and survivor-recovery program dedicated solely to victims of prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation, and sex trafficking. The primary focus of Veronica's Voice is to offer compassionate and non-judgmental support to victims through survivor-run services. Veronica's Voice offers exploited individuals a safe place to process their experiences with others who can relate to them, allowing them to take control of their lives.

Volunteers from Veronica's Voice give regular presentations on topics related to sex trafficking. In addition, the organization provides a crisis line for victims of rape and assault, performs outreach on city streets, assists with court appearances, and runs the Johnz School.

Veronica's Voice accepts monetary donations and maintains a list of ongoing needs and volunteer opportunities on its website.

Water.org

Water.org has transformed hundreds of communities in Africa, South Asia, Haiti, and Central America by providing access to safe water and sanitation. The group works with local partners to deliver innovative solutions for long-term success. Its microfinance-based Water Credit Initiative is pioneering sustainable giving in the sector. All of the projects Water.org supports are self-sustaining, with organizational and financial structures in place to allow communities to independently

operate and maintain them. GCPC supports Water.org the sale of Christmas Gift Certificates.

***Westport Sack Lunch (Westport Hot Meals)**

Westport Hot Meals operates under the program, “Neighbor to Neighbor,” and specializes in activities that help the homeless and needy of the Kansas City area.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Men prepare and distribute sack lunches monthly for the collection site at Westport United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

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