



PEAKS POSTINGS

March 31, 2020



Two Cents a Meal Grant Applications due date has been extended to April 30, 2020. Please send to the Presbytery Office or email to: julie.dyke@peaks-presbytery.org

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS UPDATES

As you know, things are rapidly changing with the Corona-virus. Please continue to check the Peaks Presbytery webpage for updates.

Committee and Workgroup Meetings scheduled between March 17 and April 30 will be meeting by Conference Call or Zoom. Please check the Presbytery Calendar on our webpage for that information.

The stated Presbytery Meeting scheduled for May 2, 2020 will now be held as a called meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the Presbytery of the Peaks office.

Also, we continue to update our online list of links to church services. We would like to share those resources with our faith community. Visit our webpage for all listings.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is working closely with partners and is mindful of the importance of continued work with vulnerable communities, throughout the current pandemic. Congregations with food ministries are developing ways for the safe distribution of food. See other food/hunger tips from the Presbyterian Hunger Program here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/food-covid19/>.



Dear brothers and sisters in the Peaks Presbytery,

Though the ongoing Covid-9 crisis is distressing, it is encouraging to see what our pastors, elders, and congregations are doing to care for each other and to continue in mission and ministry. Surely Jesus Christ is at work in, thru, and beyond us to bring order into our present chaos.

We can be grateful to the presbytery's elected leaders, who continue to carry on our mutual work via email, Zoom and conference call meetings.

Several decisions were made at this morning's Cabinet meeting (via Zoom) that we are eager to communicate.

The May 2 presbytery meeting is cancelled and a called meeting for essential business has been scheduled for Saturday, June 13, public health measures permitting. It will be a morning meeting at the presbytery office. An agenda will be approved and mailed closer to the time.

In response to the financial hardships created by the disruptions to employment, offerings, and special needs, three actions were approved:

An immediate gift of \$1,000 will be mailed to each worshipping congregation (and new worshipping community) of our presbytery, made available for current expenses. Checks will be processed and mailed next week.

Our covenants of intent will be eliminated for a three-month period, beginning April 1. The 25 percent reduction in our 2020 financial commitments will be paid for through dismissal funds.

Interest free loans up to \$10,000 will be available to congregations experiencing cash flow problems in the coming months. The loans will be available after a congregation has spent 50 percent of its own unrestricted reserve funds and will be due within 12 months after congregations resume worshipping together.

The Cabinet also endorsed the communications and actions taken by the Transitional General Presbyter since the onset of the crisis, recognizing that such authority has been entrusted to the general presbyter during times of crisis.

Please continue to pray for one another and to fulfill the mission of the church creatively and persistently. Call the presbytery office if you need help. Though we are not working from the office, we are all working from home and together via Zoom and are eager to help in any way that we can.



A letter from the Presbyterian Foundation...

Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Dear friends in Christ,

We can only be certain of one thing right now: our hope in Christ. Our world is in constant flux as we all face a pandemic that is deeply disruptive to our daily lives, our work, our hobbies and even our worship experience.

The best way to love our neighbors right now is the antithesis of what we've been taught: by distancing ourselves to protect each other. In fact, it's newly inspiring to see the ways that our nation has come together to cancel some of our most beloved spring activities out of a concern for those who could catch this virus and be unable to recover.

For this, we give thanks.

For us at the Presbyterian Foundation, this has been a time of planning, serious discussion and deep spiritual discernment as we work together to determine what is best for our employees and how to best serve our constituents and the PC(USA).

Resources available for you

We've developed resources for you that may be of assistance to you, and you can find all of those [here](#). In particular, Robert Hay Jr.'s article on [Stewardship during a Pandemic](#) provides helpful insight into how to keep generosity as part of your worship, even when worshipping virtually. Tips for engagement and online giving during worship are [here](#). If you'd like to set up online giving, you can do that with us [here](#). You'll find helpful reflections and news stories, too. We are continuing to be in conversation with pastors, Presbyteries, Synods and church leaders across the country to learn more about how we can be helpful to you. We are processing a very high volume of applications for online giving services, and we appreciate your patience as we process those applications. We are grateful to be of service to the PC(USA) in such tangible and meaningful ways!

We are still working

At the Foundation offices in Indiana, most of our staff is working remotely, with some team members coming in for short, staggered shifts beginning yesterday, March 30. Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb ordered all Indiana residents to shelter in place at least through April 7. Religious and financial organizations are exempt, and since we fall under both of those categories, this applies to us and provides us some flexibility.

Because we are a financial organization, it is imperative for us to maintain security and controls, which we are implementing in new ways as this situation changes. We will do all we can to serve you, and our hope is that most of our clients and constituents won't even know that we are functioning differently.

Your funds are secure

Your gifts and funds are still safe and secure, and we are watching them closely even while we work remotely. We are aware of the stock market's turbulence and are in daily contact with our custodians and investment advisors. We will remain vigilant during the coming weeks.

Please pray for our employees and their families as we work through this time, and we will pray for you, too. Let us lift each other up in the light of Christ, praying for strength, patience and wisdom during this difficult time.

Contact your [Ministry Relations Officer](#) if you need to speak to someone. We are here to serve you.

In Christ,

Tom Taylor

President and CEO

Presbyterian Foundation



PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/2/20	12:00 p.m.	Committee on Discipleship	Zoom
4/7/20	10:00 a.m.	Missions Committee	Zoom

**Next Presbytery Meeting:
June 13, 2020**

Meeting Location: Presbytery of the Peaks Office

[On-Line Calendar](#)

Peaks Postings is published each week on Tuesday. Please submit news, events, or prayer requests **by noon on Mondays** to Julie Dyke at julie.dyke@peakspresbytery.org for inclusion in the following issue.

Guidelines for announcements or news items to be featured in *Peaks Postings*:

- Keep the information to one page or less.
- Use links to web sites rather than including lots of details.
- Please obtain permission from the people pictured in your photos before submitting them to *Peaks Postings*.

Peaks Postings Editors reserve the right to

- feature or not feature an article. Our first priority is to feature activities within POP churches and the Presbytery.
- edit submitted articles/announcements.
- limit the number of weeks an article/announcement is featured.

Past issues of Peaks Postings are archived for about six months on our website, [Presbytery of the Peaks](#).

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**“Building partnerships in Christ, to empower communities of faith to be the
Body of Christ for the world.”**