

# Peaks Postings, Sept. 7



Mission Grant Application are  
due on November 1st

**POP Congregations! Your Mission Committee is here to assist you in your mission work!** The Mission Committee has a total of \$32,000 designated for mission outreach, made available from Church Dismissal Funds. \$10,656 is for mission beyond our presbytery and \$21,364 for mission within our presbytery. We are here to help your church Session submit a recommendation or an application for a seed grant. The presbytery Mission Committee especially seeks to assist smaller budget churches who hope to work with at-risk children and youth in their neighborhood. Mission causes outside the presbytery can be in Virginia, in the United States, or an international work.

It is understood that congregations may have great ideas that will be delayed by the current pandemic. But it's fine to start making those plans now for working with young people for when you can put them in motion.

The simple application can be found on the presbytery's website: [www.peakspresbytery.org](http://www.peakspresbytery.org) click on "Ministry/Mission," then "Presbytery Missions." The application is under "New Mission Grant Applications."

Applications must be emailed or postmarked by **November 1, 2020 (extended from October 1)**

For additional assistance, contact: Robert Fiedler, Mission Committee chair  
[rev.rafiedler@gmail.com](mailto:rev.rafiedler@gmail.com) or 540-989-1979

## **Webinar : Holy Imagination + Race**

**September 15 at 2 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT**

**90-minute Presbyterian Outlook webinar**

**Presented by Kerry Connelly**

**Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing — Free of charge to participants**

[Click here to register](#)



Dear friends and colleagues,

I am deeply grateful that you have elected me as your General Presbyter. I've gotten to know our congregations and leaders fairly well over the last three years while serving as the transitional presbyter, and I am pleased to know that we'll be walking the journey of faith together in the coming years. I am grateful that my election coincided with the approval of a new mission study and design, and the announcement of a "transformation team" whose members promise to be competent and faithful stewards of our broad vision. We all recognize that life and ministry are changing. It seems to me that we are being called back to our fundamental roots - to be connected to each other in caring and responsive relationships, to work together in and with Christ because we need each other, and most fundamental of all - we are being called to a renewed commitment to be the body of Christ in and for the world. 2020 has been apocalyptic so far - a revealing - of just how deeply the world is in need of the saving grace of God. I am confident that God continues to heal the world and I also think Peaks Presbyterians have more to offer God and the world. Honestly, I hope we can begin to have greater expectations of each other. It is human nature: if we expect little we get little, and when we expect more, even excellence, we are far more likely to become better servants of the Lord.

I am moving this week to Roanoke - just a mile or two off the population center of our presbytery. No, I'm not having 12,000 over for dinner any time soon. But I will be coming to you. We'll use communication technology for necessary business. But I look forward to the free movement we'll enjoy post-Covid. Relationships are built face to face, in person, over coffee. Let's see where God leads us.

The administrative home base will continue to be in Lynchburg, where Robin and Julie competently anchor the presbytery's daily business. More staff will be hired soon to complement the work that the presbytery is doing, according to the approved mission study report. A Program Director for Discipleship will begin in a couple of weeks - preparing for Fall and Winter youth and young adult ministries, and anticipating Camp Peaks in a post-Covid Virginia. A Communications Director position description has been approved and I expect that person will be hired soon. That position is a reflection of how the church is adapting, not just to Covid, but to the digital context in which we live and in which we communicate the gospel. The pandemic has been a kick in the seat of the church, compelling us to catch up with the world. The new communication (and technology director) is expected to equip us for the new landscape. The search for a neighborhood presbyter will take place after we've had a conversation as a presbytery about race and representation. When the presbytery was formed 30 years ago a commitment was made to our Black congregations that an African American would always be on the staff of the presbytery. The promise, the reasons for it, how it has been fulfilled and when fulfillment lapsed and why... all of these need a fresh look before we search for another presbyter. Once we have discerned together our current needs and commitments, we'll be in a position to fulfill the plans approved by the presbytery.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your general presbyter.

In Christ,

Carl Utley

The Presbytery of the Peaks is God's people dispersed throughout our region. When Covid-19 is under control and we are more free to travel, I'll be where our folks are



## FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

### TWO CENTS A MEAL GRANT APPLICATION REMINDER

Through the generosity of our congregations, members and friends, \$41,500 has been awarded in 2020 through Two Cents-a-Meal grants.

Thank you to all who have continued to support this offering during especially challenging times. The need is greater than ever for those dealing with hunger and poverty.

The next, and final round of 2020 grant awards will be made in late October. Applications must be postmarked by October 1 and should be sent to: Presbytery of the Peaks, 108 Melinda Drive Lynchburg, VA 24502 or emailed to [office@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:office@peakspresbytery.org).



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### Easy to Participate this Fall

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to spread the Peace of Christ both near and far.

Read about Christiansburg Presbyterian Church's very positive experience with this offering:

"Christiansburg Presbyterian Church is pleased to support the Peace & Global Witness offering, which is used by the PCUSA to boost peacemaking and support mission work locally and around the world. Each year, the 25% of the offering that we retain locally helps support our congregation's Dental Care Project, which promotes health and wholeness in Montgomery County by making dental care available to preschool children from low-income families. We are grateful for this opportunity to make a positive difference in the world!"

- Rev. Don Makin

It's easy to find more information and resources for your congregation - Go to [www.PCUSA.org](http://www.PCUSA.org) and click on Special Offerings.



## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/9/20	10:00 a.m.	Nominations Committee	Zoom
9/10/20	9:30 a.m.	Committee on Ministry	Zoom

Next Presbytery Meeting:

November 19, 2020

Zoom

[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](mailto: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.”