

September 11, 2015

Rev. Joshua Robinson
Hope Presbyterian Church
11512 Olson Drive
Austin, TX 78750-2606

Dear Josh,;

Last year, I shared with you the tradition of "The Fifth Kernel," which I learned about when I served as Associate Pastor of Newport Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, Washington in the 1990's. Each Thanksgiving morning the church held a worship service to give thanks to God for the blessings it had received. Perhaps your congregation enjoys this wonderful tradition as well?

The tradition dates back to the time Daniel Webster gave a speech in 1820 at the bicentennial celebration of the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock. A banquet followed Webster's speech and, per his request, five kernels of corn were placed at each setting. These five kernels were to represent the "starving time" that our nation's first settlers endured and also symbolized five special blessings.

"The first kernel represented the beauty and bounty of autumn. The second kernel represented their love for one another. The third kernel represented their love for their families. The fourth kernel represented their friendship with the Native Americans. The fifth kernel represented their freedom to worship God without fear."

I've been reflecting on this tradition and thinking about a way I'd like to express my thanks for your ministry and the ways you are sharing God's love in your community. Our Mission Presbytery Transition Team has grouped the work of the Presbytery into four categories. I think of them as the four ways the Presbytery blesses our connected ministries.

The First Kernel - Establish and equip congregations and sessions to carry out their missions:

Church Development and Evangelism Committee	\$36,000
Education and Congregational Nurture Committee	\$1,600
¼ Personnel Committee	\$92,250
¼ Non Personnel Administration	\$10,000

The Second Kernel - Recruit, receive, ordain, develop and care for those called to serve in the church:

Committee on Ministry (inc PJC)	\$2,000
Permanent Judicial Committee	(included in COM)
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	\$7,200
Pastoral Care Committee	\$2,000
¼ Personnel Committee	\$92,250
¼ Non Personnel Administration	\$10,000

The Third Kernel - Enable mission and witness to the Gospel that congregations cannot accomplish alone:

Mission Outreach and Justice Committee	\$40,000
Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team	\$1,700
Commissioners to the Synod of the Sun	(Synod expense)
Commissioners to the General Assembly	(included in General Council)

Youth Connections Committee	\$12,000
John Knox Ranch	\$15,000
¼ Personnel Committee	\$92,250
¼ Non Personnel Administration	\$10,000

The Fourth Kernel: Steward our resources faithfully and generously:

General Council	\$17,000
Nominations Committee	\$1,000
Committee on Representation	\$100
Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight Committee	\$2,500
Trustees of Henrietta M. King Memorial Fund	\$300
Trustees of Mission Presbytery	\$600
¼ Personnel Committee	\$92,250
¼ Non Personnel Administration	\$10,000

The Fifth Kernel: Hope Presbyterian Church

Yes, your church fulfills the mission of Mission Presbytery! Together, "We are Mission Presbytery who in the Reformed tradition serves Christ in the World." Thank you for faithfully witnessing to Christ' love in Austin, Texas.

This year I invite your church, during a worship service, to give thanks for all of the churches in Mission Presbytery and by our connected ministries, to know that numerous people have come to know and experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ in 2015.

I also hope this letter might help you interpret the work we do together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you as well for praying for our two active search committees, one seeking our new Stated Clerk and the other seeking our new General Presbyter, and all of the Good News we have shared, in word and deed, this year.

In closing, accept my heart-felt appreciation for your prayers and gifts for Mission Presbytery. Your gifts toward Mission Presbytery's Presbyterian Benevolence Fund provide the resources needed to fund its committee-based ministries (listed above) and all of its mission and church development grants. May God continue to bless our ministries!

Thank you for being a connectional Presbyterian,



Rev. Peter D. Crouch
Chair, Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight Committee
Mission Presbytery

P.S. Your 2015 Presbyterian Benevolence Fund pledge is: \$4,000.00. As of August, your congregation has donated \$4,500.00 to the Presbyterian Benevolence Fund. We thank you for your support. Your gifts enable Mission Presbytery to fulfill its mission while calling a new General Presbyter and a new Stated Clerk. Thank you for submitting all Presbyterian Benevolence donations by December 31, 2015!