

**Mission and Social Justice Division
Heartland Presbytery
Report for November 17, 2018**

I. Voter2Voter

During the final six months of 2018, the members of the Mission and Social Justice Division sponsored events in partnership with the Mainstream Coalition of Kansas. Our goal was to bring Mainstream's Voter2Voter program to as many Presbyterians as we could, helping them to identify and train voting ambassadors who would in turn identify ten people in their lives who might be less likely to vote and equip them for the polls. This year, we held four events, at First Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, MO; First Presbyterian Church in Leavenworth, KS; Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Blue Springs, MO; and Westport Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO. We also invited the voting coordinator of Mainstream Coalition to speak at Presbytery on September 15th. Through these efforts, our outreach touched dozens of Presbyterians and, through them, many others, as we encouraged civic participation—following an essential tenet of the Reformed tradition.

II. Community Mission Funding Decisions

At its September meeting, MSJ made several important decisions about how to allocate the remaining funds in the Community Mission budget line. We were able to direct \$1,500 toward Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation, who are facing increased needs to pay for bail and other legal needs. We directed \$1,000 toward Cherith Brook and its vital mission of peacemaking and justice. We participated in the Friends of the Presbyterian Education Board's Martinpur Challenge Grant, directing \$500 toward a new school in Pakistan that was soon matched by a caring PEB donor. We also gave \$500 to the Hispanic Development Fund, a group that allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars to students in need in our region. We also affirmed our earlier support of StandUpKC, MORE2, and Earthkeepers. We encourage all Heartland Presbyterians to learn more about these worthy organizations and consider supporting them with your time, talent, and treasure. It was a blessing to be able to support them, and to send them a tangible message that our presbytery stands behind them.

III. Meeting Grounds

Throughout the year, MSJ was intentional about meeting in different places during different months. In some ways, we were seeking out sites of mission in the presbytery, as a reminder of the struggles that often remain out of sight for many of us. In other ways, we were simply mindful of our members. For many years, MSJ met at Village Presbyterian each month, and Village has been a lovely host for us, but that's a long drive from Saint Joseph. Toward that end, this year, we held meetings at Grandview Park, Parkville Pres, Grace Covenant, St. Paul's, Linwood United, the presbytery office, Village, Cherith Brook, and the offices of InterServ in St. Joe. We encourage other presbytery committees to consider taking up this practice—as a means of seeing and getting to know more places, and respecting your long-suffering members with long drives. This can be one means of encouraging unity in the presbytery.