

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
October 2010 Treasurer's Report

October 19, 2010

To: Presbytery Council and Board of Trustees

From: Edwin Martin, Treasurer

September 2010 Financial Report

PER CAPITA: At three-quarters of the way through the year, the receipts for churches' per-capita payments continue to fall behind anticipated amounts, and even behind last year-to-date. At the end of the month we have received \$512.5K, or 72% of anticipated receipts, against \$550K last year. A number of churches have made their pay-up this past month, representing \$49K, a positive response.

I had hoped to contact some of the delinquent churches but have not done that as yet. If there are any who might assist me in this endeavour I would be grateful.

GENERAL MISSION: Like the per-capita, General Mission receipts also continues to fall behind even more than per-capita, \$162.8K has been received to date, or 65% of what is anticipated. Last month the difference between receipts and what had been received year-to-date last year was \$2,600; currently it is \$11,800.

The entire revenue side of Presbytery's finances is significantly behind even last year-to-date by \$41K. Part of that is a dip in investment income. The real situation is that congregations are not meeting their responsibilities. The economy is a factor, I believe, but only a factor!

EXPENSES: If there is a silver lining to the financial picture it is that expenses are running below budget at 68% of budget, though \$43K more than last year-to-date. As one studies the Summary report for Fund 01, a couple of committees have over spent, while others have spent little or nothing.

COMMENTS: The continuing decline in receipts at this point, well into the year, is a point of concern! I believe Council and the Trustees, as well as the congregations of this Presbytery, need to be honest about what we are doing. We need to share the stories of our ministry and mission, so others might catch a vision, for as the prophet Isaiah noted long ago, "without a vision the people die." Working on the proposed budget which will be presented to Council shortly, and voted on in November by Presbytery, there will need to be some major adjustments – or courageous responses. As a community of faith we need to tell our story better, but also to be clear that money is the means of doing the work of Christ, the tool to accomplish our calling. Ours is not engagement in volunteer jobs; ours is a calling to which every one of us has responded affirmatively.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwin Martin, Treasurer