

## 2024 MDP Narrative Questions

Question 1) How would you describe the congregation's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

For nearly 200 years, Park Presbyterian Church's vision for ministry is to be a beacon of love, interaction, and guidance in faith and comfort. As a church family, we endeavor to be respectful, welcoming and inclusive. We want to embody Christian life through honest and direct communication, while searching for God's truth, meaning, and peace.

PPC has been, and seeks to continue to be a strong spiritual presence in the Newark, NY community. Our mission efforts stem from the use of both our financial resources and utilizing our member's gifts and talents as well as opening the church building to numerous community groups such as Boy Scouts, AA, and Al-Anon.

From a financial perspective, the congregation has always supported the Presbytery through our per capita contributions, as well as through the four annual giving campaigns, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Awareness and the Joy collections. Additionally, we have applied for grants for local non-profit organizations working to end hunger. We have also supported the Presbyterian Disaster Relief program by raising funds for refugees in Ukraine and victims of flooding in Kentucky.

Park Church (PPC) became a Matthew 25 church in October 2019. In support of this initiative, PPC's current Mission Team has identified five criteria to ensure each mission undertaken will be successful. Specifically, any mission activity should consider the following criteria: 1) Identifying an immediate and specific need, 2) Identifying an organization that PPC can partner with making the activity a joint community effort 3) Identify a specific need which the congregation has

the means to address, either financially or by offering hands-on assistance 4) Identifying needs which the whole congregation would be internally motivated to support, and 5) setting a short-term time frame for the activity.

Prior to the pandemic, mission activities in support of a local Family Promise organization included hands-on support through the use of our building for temporary housing as well as providing meals for the homeless families in the Family Promise program. More recently, the session and Park Church Women have jointly pledged \$20,000 to assist Family Promise in the possible purchase of a rental property to house homeless families.

Additional mission activities include a Warming Tree to collect hats and mittens for migrant families through the Agricultural Business Child Development (ABCD) program, Sock it to Me on Super Bowl Sunday which supports Common Threads, a local organization providing children's clothing, annual Rummage Sale, collection of coloring books distributed at the Newark Farmer's Market during the summer months, Hope in a Tote for Survivor Advocacy, a local shelter for domestic abuse victims, Advent bags for our Shut-ins, monthly donations to the local Food Closet as well as Christmas dinner bags to that program, collecting household goods to donate to a refugees program, Canandaigua Call to Care and finally, through sales of quilts and quilted items to support the Presbytery's Disaster Relief program.

In summary, the majority of our current mission activities are generally directed to support local organizations addressing issues such as hunger and homelessness. While our congregation is aging, we continue to support mission activities that are within our financial means as a congregation, and which allow members to contribute personally in a meaningful way. We believe this local focus has an immediate impact on our local community and has helped to assist small, non-profit organizations to thrive and accomplish more.

