



Presbytery of South Louisiana

12909 Old Hammond Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70816

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www.pbysouthla.org



October 1, 2024

We THANK YOU, PSL Congregations, for your generous support! We thank each of you for your support and contribution, as we are one body with one purpose. With an optimistic heart, I send out the 2025 PSL Per Capita packet for your prayerful consideration.

The per capita pledge amount is based on membership data that is two years old. For instance, our 2025 pledge kits are based on the 2023 membership report, which includes 3,534 members. Through each of our members and congregations contributing, we are able to have strong and active Presbyterian mission across South Louisiana. I am pleased that we have more mission-based funds built into our general fund budget (youth ministry, campus ministry, disaster response, hunger and more), but to keep these missions/ministries going, we will need your help.

The PSL Finance Committee has carefully considered the mission and ministry of the Presbytery, and has proposed an **increase of the Total Per Capita rate to \$87.08 per member** (from \$80 per member for the past six years.) This increase will be voted on at the November PSL meeting, but is shared with you now to aid in your 2025 budget planning.

This increased Total Per Capita amount will include the following changes:

- GA Support: The rate of per capita asked by the GA has increased from \$9.80 to \$10.84. For the past three years, the Presbytery has absorbed the GA per capita increases, but this is no longer possible. Please remember PSL covers to the full GA per capita amount even when congregations do not give their full per capita.
- PSL Support: The PSL per capita amount will follow the GA increase of 11%. The PSL portion is increasing from \$65.40 to \$71.44.
- Synod Support: While the Synod does not ask for a specific per capita rate, they still depend on Presbytery funds to operate. The total for Synod support will remain constant at \$4.80.

I am looking forward to the year ahead for our Presbytery. One of the goals of my term as Treasurer is to see how we can best serve you. A decline in membership tells me that there may be a decline in the finances of your churches. I do not want pledging to be a burden to you or the members of your congregation. This is *our* Presbytery as we are one Body. If you cannot commit to the \$87.08 per member, please send what you can. All amounts are appreciated, and spent with oversight, judgement, and care. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at jackie@pbysouthla.org or call my cell at (225) 571-7431.

Jackie Cummings, Treasurer of the Presbytery of South Louisiana

(flip over for ways of giving and to know how your per capita dollars are used)



Rev. Richard
Williams
Transitional
General Presbyter

Sharon Fortin
Stated Clerk

Jackie Cummings
Treasurer

Dan Baker
YAV Site
Coordinator

Ways of Giving

We appreciate each of our congregations and your contributions toward the work of the Presbytery. In the past year, we have introduced a new method of payment that should help our congregations and presbytery better handle our per capita payments.

- **NEW to PSL: ACH Withdrawal or Bank Draft:** Using our new portal (congregations can use bank drafts to make per capita and special offering payments. You can even set up recurring payments. This method of payment is easy to operate and schedule in advance. It also will cost considerably less than the processing fees for our credit card payment system. This is the best method for congregations to safely send in their payments to the presbytery.

ACH Withdrawal link - <https://hwtreasury.billeriq.com/ebpp/PbySouthLA/>

- **Credit Card Payments:** PSL can still accept online credit card payments. This is available through the PSL website (www.pbysouthla.org) and through the link below. This method is best suited for individuals who wish to donate or pay for specific activities (ex. Paying for lunch for PSL meetings or paying for your child's camping experience).
https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JlDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbZ6OtPk24gBK0II83TFxPmuXHubq5Z7ap5JVmPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dx0ErOuLBF8k_k6meIqemSVY=&ver=3
- **Checks:** If you would like to send a paper check to the Presbytery, please mail to our PO Box rather than the PSL office. The address is PO Box 4847, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4847.

Let us know if you have any questions on the various giving methods. We are happy to help.

Our per capita at work

- This summer, Per Capita funding helped young folks from across the Presbytery attend Camp Agape and experiences at MoRanch and Montreat.
- PSL Per Capita funds support seven active Campus Ministries, making an open, inviting, and positive campus witness possible.
- Per Capita supports the PSL response to area disasters. In our response to disasters, we help God's people in their times of dire need.
- With Per Capita support, this year PSL launched an innovative training group of congregational leaders seeking to become commissioned pastors who will serve in many of our congregations.
- With the support of Per Capita funding, the Committee on Ministry led a series of discernment opportunities called "Small Church Options" which has seeded many fruitful conversations about our faithful future.
- This year, your Per Capita support has empowered the work of the Presbytery in ensuring our ministries are safe and loving for all persons. This includes policies and trainings to make sure all PSL's ministries are held to the highest ethical standards.
- PSL is doing new things! The New Worshiping Communities committee is helping nurture new expressions of faith in our region, with 4 active communities now, and several more that will be launching soon.
- Your Per Capita support goes to the efficient and effective administration of the funds of the Presbytery, which supports our common mission through the Young Adult Volunteer program, Okra Abbey, Campus Ministries, Disaster Response, Westminster Foundation, and more.