

TURN BURDENS INTO BLESSINGS

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is richly blessed with a heritage of abundant resources. At the Presbyterian Foundation, we believe that the resources needed for new ministry and mission are often before our eyes and under our feet. The sale or re-purposing of a former church building can be used to provide resources for new ministry. The Presbyterian Foundation partners with congregations and presbyteries across the denomination to explore creative options for ministries that have become burdened by their buildings. The Foundation can help you consider how God might reveal new opportunities to fund ministry for the next generation.



GIVING NEW LIFE TO A FAMILIAR PURPOSE

When a congregation can no longer sustain its facilities, the path ahead may be unclear, sad, and even frightening. Project Regeneration brings clarity and purpose to the lives of these congregations by re-purposing assets to provide a continuing legacy for the church.

WHAT IS PROJECT REGENERATION?

Project Regeneration is a consultative service provided through the Presbyterian Foundation that helps ministries address property-related financial decisions and find meaningful and sustainable ways to create their legacy.

There are many reasons why it may be necessary for a congregation to sell its building or reinvent its ministry — the rising costs of building upkeep, a neighborhood in transition, or a merger with another congregation, for example. Project Regeneration can help bring financial and emotional clarity to congregations struggling with this difficult reality. Working with congregation leaders and the local Presbytery, Project Regeneration helps churches in the process of selling or re-purposing ministry assets to ensure that the faith and ministry they have built for generations will continue to have an impact for years to come.

“Through meeting with the Presbytery folks and the Foundation, and through time of prayer, (the congregation) discovered that even though they were transitioning from being a congregation, God hadn’t finished their mission.

It was hard... thinking that they had been married there, their children had been baptized there for decades and decades. That had been their spiritual home, and to let that go without a sense that somehow their ministries would continue would have been impossible. And so through the Foundation’s resources and expertise they were able to do that in a way that they could really feel that God was still using them in important ways.”

— Rev. Tom Evans, former executive presbyter, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

“We should ask God to increase our hope when it is small, awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering, strengthen it when it is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown.”

— John Calvin

WHO LEADS PROJECT REGENERATION?

Project Regeneration’s team members are seasoned financial experts. They are also pastors, elders and active members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We not only offer an objective third party perspective during your church’s journey, but understanding and compassion, too.

LET US HELP YOU BUILD THE FUTURE YOU WANT FOR YOUR CHURCH

With Project Regeneration, we recognize both the financial necessities and hardships of today’s ministries, and offer personalized solutions to give those ministries new life. If your congregation is striving to find its way during a financial or cultural shift, the path to a meaningful new ministry may begin here.



“We went from being a congregation that was really trying to find its way to a congregation that, in many ways, found its purpose through actually dissolving the church.

We did work with the Presbyterian Foundation knowing that if we wanted to endow funds to be used in one way or another for ministry, those

funds would always be there. Whatever was put into the trust of the Foundation would be used specifically for the ministry that it was designated for. That was very, very important for our folks to know that and to really trust that.”

— Rev. Greg McMinn, former pastor, Pilgrimage Presbyterian Church



CASE STUDY: PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASTORIA

The story of the Presbyterian Church of Astoria, N.Y. is one of sacrifice, faithfulness, and new life. It begins like so many other Presbyterian congregations — a neighborhood church, built up over generations, with beautiful facilities. Then something shifts, members move farther away from the church, attendance declines, and Sunday morning worship goes from hundreds in the pews to a couple of dozen.

The remaining members decided to sell the property to address two needs. First, affordable housing for seniors — the old church was sold to a developer to build just such housing. Second, funds from the sale, now stewarded by the Presbyterian Foundation, provide an English speaking Presbyterian congregation for a growing population

of young artists and performers in an area where worship in almost all the other churches takes place in another language.

“With that move, the congregation reestablished a new identity for itself,” said Tony De La Rosa, then interim executive presbyter for the Presbytery of New York City. “They began experiencing new life, new energy, and incredible creativity in worship.”

Today, the Presbyterian church of Astoria looks very different. The young, growing congregation worships in rented space and makes an intentional effort to get out in the community. Freed from a building that had become burdensome, the church is engaging its neighbors in new and exciting ways.



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