



Mikes' Mission Notes

I wanted to use this month's mission notes to reflect on the *"2017 Year of Mission"* within the National Capital Presbytery.

One of the most exciting things about this past year is the increase in total grant money awarded. This means that there is more mission happening within our presbytery. On top of that the grants this year were of a particularly strong quality, which means that leading into 2018, there is likely to be more competition for funds! This is very much the culmination of a multi-year effort on the part of the Mission Coordination Committee to more effectively get the word out on the availability of grants. There have been more earth care grants, more global mission grants and more local mission grants. If you have a program that you think would be improved by a presbytery mission grant, make sure to [reach out to me](#) as soon as possible so we can get that grant to the Mission Coordination Committee!

Another thing that has been particularly exciting this year is the increase in Mission Networks. Mission Networks are when seven or more churches come together around a particular issue or mission ministry. Starting this year we had 3 such networks: Global Mission, Earthcare and Israel-Palestine. Over the past 12 months we have added a Refugee Network, a Sanctuary Network and a Disaster Assistance Network. The Global Mission Network has broadened their mission networks (requiring a minimum of three congregations) focused on countries where congregations are working: Kenya, Cuba, Malawi, and soon to be chartered Haiti and Cameroon. There is also discussion around the forming of a Native American Concerns Network and an Arts Network.

The work of the Disaster Assistance Network has really highlighted the potential of Mission Networks within our presbytery. It started with a few pastors gathering together to discuss how to respond to the string of disasters that occurred this past year, and has since turned into a coordinated effort of supplying funds directly to pastors and churches in Puerto Rico as well as a planned spring break mission trip to Houston. The group has managed to raise over \$14,000 for the work in Puerto Rico, and has pulled in pastors and elders from across the presbytery to participate in weekly conference calls on the subject. The group has also helped inspire and publicize benefit concerts at two churches. If you are interested in learning more about our presbytery's Mission Networks, the January Presbytery Meeting will be highlighting this connectional work with a Mission Fair and a connectional mission focused worship service.

There are so many more stories to tell! Whether it's the work of our campus ministry programs, the community organizing groups, the YAVs or the many congregational projects that received grants, there is a lot going on in this presbytery! I am excited by all that will be happening in 2018. Keep an eye on this space for more stories, and please [invite me](#) to your congregations for worship and/or a session meeting so that I can hear your stories and share them across the presbytery as well! ***Together we are making a difference!***

