



Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

Synod of the Sun

Presbyterian Church (USA)

700 S. Boston • Suite 200 • Tulsa, OK 74119-1629

918-582-3077 • FAX 918-582-3078

E-Mail: eop@sbcglobal.net — Website: www.eokpresbytery.org



November 18, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I heard a sermon recently on the Widow's Offering (Luke 21:1-5), with an interpretation of the text which I had not heard before. The preacher suggested that Jesus did not praise the woman for giving her last two coins, but rather for the joy and hope she had which led her to that decision. Amid all of her needs and concerns, she brought to God her offering of abundant hope.

That led me to wonder about my level of concern and my own hope. There is much for which we should be concerned - a struggling economy, unemployment, wars in every corner of the world, and an American political landscape that resembles a war zone. Our Presbyterian Church, like so many others, continues to struggle to find its identity in the midst of an ever-changing social landscape.

Yet there is hope, an abundance of hope! And that abundance of hope is not of our making. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b). I came away from that sermon wondering if I am living in the abundance promised to me by Christ.

The story of the widow's offering begs us ask, in the midst of our concerns, where is our abundance? I believe there has been no more exciting time to serve our Church and our Lord. With a new committee charged with the pastoral care of church professionals, we seek to encourage those who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. Through our financial and theological support of candidates and inquirers, we plant seeds of a bright new generation of leaders for our congregations. Our Malawi Partnership has entered its fifteenth year. Our ministry with our Native American congregations has been active for more than one hundred years!

In the life and work of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, there is much for which we should give thanks. In 2010, we joyfully participated in the work of the 219th General Assembly, with one of our own being elected co-moderator of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates. We sent an entire busload of young people to the Youth Triennium. Since this time last year, we have welcomed new pastors in Claremore, Durant, Grove, Idabel, and Tahlequah, as well as a new Executive Director at Dwight Mission Camp & Conference Center.

Your congregation's financial support of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery is essential as we continue to ask how it is that we shall "glorify God by serving congregations as they make and equip disciples for Jesus Christ." We are here to give arms and legs, flesh and blood, to the promise of Christian partnership among our congregations and their leaders in their good work. We are here as good and responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Our 2011 budget requires a 3% increase in mission giving. Please, as you prayerfully consider your congregation's 2011 mission pledge, ask first if your pledge represents the abundance of hope in the future which is ours in Christ. It is also good to be reminded that in order to be "the salt of the earth" we are called to be poured out onto the world in order to make a difference in the world.

As we prepare our 2011 mission budgets, let us pray that our concerns will be balanced with our trust in the power of the abundant hope offered to us by the Master. To God be the glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg", written in a cursive style.

Gregory J Coulter
General Presbyter

2011 MISSION PLEDGE FORM

CHURCH NAME/CITY: _____

Person completing form: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

On _____, 20____, the Session made the following financial commitment to the unified mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We understand that, unless otherwise designated, our gifts will be divided between the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma, Synod of the Sun, and the General Assembly (annual percentages are indicated on the budget and financial reports). We also understand that, unless otherwise designated, our General Assembly per capita assessment (\$6.50 per member) will be paid from our mission pledge.

OUR TOTAL 2011 UNIFIED MISSION PLEDGE: \$ _____

We intend to pay this pledge _____ Monthly _____ Quarterly _____ Semi-annually
_____ Annually _____ Other (how? _____)

In addition to the unified pledge indicated above, the Session made the following DESIGNATED COMMITMENTS such as General Assembly's Theological Education (1%) Fund; Synod's Solar Under the Sun; Dwight Mission, etc.:

Any additional designations may be listed on the back of this form.

When completed, please return this form to:
Finance & Administration Committee
Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
700 S Boston Ste 200
Tulsa OK 74119-1610