

Frequently Asked Questions

Mission Agency Validation & Funding

What does Validation mean?

Validation means that the Mission Ministry Team (MMT) of Pittsburgh Presbytery has received, reviewed and approved your agency's application. A new application is processed annually.

Validation means that your mission agency may promote itself to churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery and that churches may provide volunteers and direct donations from their congregations to your mission agency directly, or through the Presbytery designated giving program.

Does Validation mean the Presbytery will fund my ministry?

Validation and funding are two separate issues. While an application to the Mission Ministry Team may be for validation or both validation and funding, the MMT determines separately what ministries are validated and then what ministries are funded.

Some ministries look to the MMT only for validation.

What are the benefits of Validation?

Validation provides peace of mind to congregations whom look to the Presbytery for guidance in use of its mission giving.

Mission agencies that are validated may communicate this standing to congregations. We encourage the use of your validation to open new doors of giving through individual congregations.

The Mission Ministry Team promotes validated mission agencies through the Presbytery website and at Presbytery meetings through a mission fair before the meeting. The MMT is looking to find new ways to help validated mission agencies connect with giving congregations.

Besides funding, how can the Mission Ministry Team help me?

Beyond the direct funding application, the MMT is looking for ways to help you to better fulfill your ministry. During your site visit, please communicate other needs to the MMT representatives. We are considering ways to help by connecting expert advice and other resources to mission agencies with specific needs.

Can MMT help me promote my ministry/agency?

Beyond the Presbytery website and mission fair, the MMT desires to provide new ideas and avenues to communicate with the churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Ideas for better promoting your ministry

1. Visit churches - face to face is the best way to make the ask. Consider working with churches towards a "Missions Sunday" presentation. Offer to have a board member or staff member preach that Sunday.
2. Network - make the connections to get you to your destination. People know people, so consider how you can get an invitation to the right donor church. Ask the MMT members for thoughts on good fits, or discuss what churches you are targeting...you never know who knows whom!
3. Follow up - everybody is busy. People that make connections are usually the ones that communicate, re-communicate and follow up on the communication.
4. Do Your Homework - read websites, use Google, see if you can find out which churches might have the best affinity for your particular ministry outreach.
5. Communicate your Validation - if you are directly soliciting churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery, consider leading with your validation. Being validating for a number of years is impressive and important. Consider directing the reader to the Presbytery website or ask them to contact an MMT member they know to discuss your ministry.
6. Keep your information on the Pittsburgh Presbytery website updated by advising us of any changes via email (kbattle@pghpresbytery.org).