

Presbytery of Des Moines  
**HARVEST OFFERING**  
A History

Since 1978 churches of the Presbytery of Des Moines have participated in a special hunger offering called the **Harvest Offering**. It originated as an offering unique to this Presbytery with all funds going to farmers in developing countries to learn more productive farming techniques with the promise that they would share that knowledge with other farmers.

In 1987 the Presbytery voted to include an additional focus- the local farm crisis. Half of the offering was designated for local programs, and the offering was renamed the Rural Harvest Offering.

Over the years, the international portion of the offering was directed to support the Presbytery's international partnerships in El Salvador and Egypt and another name change- Rural Partnership Offering- reflected that distribution.

At the close of 2015 the Joining Hands partnership with Egypt ended, and by vote of Presbytery the offering returned to its hunger alleviation roots--refocusing on rural concerns with half designated for programs and projects in rural Iowa, and half for international programs benefitting farmers with an emphasis on women in agriculture. Beginning with the 2016 offering, the Rural Partnership Offering returned to its original name- the **Harvest Offering**. Grants will continue to be awarded by the Compassion, Peace and Justice Task Force.

Over many years the **Harvest Offering** has enabled Presbyterians to share the love of Christ with many friends and neighbors:

- We have provided emergency assistance in the eleventh hour for families and communities on the brink of disaster;
- We have encouraged ordinary people who care about their community to develop ministries of sharing and development; and
- We continue to stand with brothers and sisters at home and afar through innovative programs and ministries.

Your gifts to the **Harvest Offering** make this possible.