

## Minute for Mission—August 27, 2023

There is about 195 billion dollars of medical debt right now in the United States. That's a huge number. Beside adverse health effects like high blood pressure, stress and poor nutrition, those struggling with medical debt can face bankruptcy and homelessness. Many are less likely to seek medical care for preventative services or treatment. But...there is hope! On September 21, our entire Presbytery is raising money to relieve medical debt. Every dollar raised will be sent to an organization called RIP Medical Debt, a leader in the purchase and forgiveness of medical debt. They are able to buy debt that has gone to a collection agency for pennies on the dollar. This method allows what we contribute to go much further toward the elimination of medical debt. A single dollar will remove at least \$100 of medical debt for someone struggling to pay their bills.

Our congregation, along with every other congregation in John Knox Presbytery, is invited to participate. Think about how much medical debt could be eliminated through the efforts of all 55 churches in our Presbytery! The need is great. Our congregation can make a difference and bring hope to many people.