

## Minute for Mission—September 3, 2023

In 2019, the Presbyterian Church (USA) introduced a new program called “The Matthew 25 Initiative”. The reference is to Matthew 25:31-46 when Christ comes to reward those who fed the hungry, offered a drink to the thirsty, visited those who were sick or in prison, clothed the naked and welcomed strangers. Jesus adds, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these, who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

One area the Matthew 25 initiative focuses on is “the eradication of systemic poverty”. John Knox Presbytery has already joined the Matthew 25 movement. Members of the Presbytery have been invited to participate in a ministry to remove the burden of medical debt for as many people as possible. The culmination of this effort will take place on September 21, known around the world as the International Day of Peace. Working with a ministry partner, an organization called RIP Medical Debt, each dollar the Presbytery receives will remove at least \$100 of medical debt for a family. I’d call that peace! Along with every other congregation in our Presbytery, we can free many families from the prison of medical debt. Your gift can be placed in the offering plates any Sunday through September 17. Checks should be made out to our church. Please mark your offering “RIP Medical Debt”. Gifts can also be made online on the Presbytery’s website, [jknox.org](http://jknox.org). Together, and with God’s help, we are going to change peoples’ lives!