Caryl,

I hope you are doing well. I have been in conversation with both Barbara Smith and Pastor Ray about reaching out to the Mission Council for financial support for Next Ministries. Please accept the following as our request of the Mission Council of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston and feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

*Caryl,*

*As you are aware of, First Presbyterian Church of Evanston is one of our partner churches for Next Ministries. I am very excited about how the partnership with First Presbyterian Church has developed with Barbara Smith being an Elder who serves on our Organizing Board and has been commissioned to serve with us on the South-side of Chicago. This relationship has proven to be one of our strongest partnerships.*

*During the past few weeks, we have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic like many other churches worldwide. We have been moving forward with our social media presence and are now actively launching worship services, bible studies, and prayers online as we work to build a digital community for this new era of the church and Next Ministries. This has always been a part of the plan of Next Ministries from inception. For the last year, we have been working with a data analytics company called Gloo, which has helped us to see over 300 kids at last year's Easter Egg Hunt and helped us reach 43 families at our second Community Christmas Party this past December. They have helped us build a positive presence online in the community with tens of thousands of people. So, we are equipped to move in this direction.*

*Our initial phases of development included a physical anchor in the community. At this time, our rental agreement with the Chicago Public Schools has been temporarily suspended, along with all other renters and vendors, which has fully motivated us towards building our online church presence. As many churches have experienced their entry into this new social media era of the church, we have seen people connecting with us in numbers that have increased our outreach more than 10 times over what we have seen on any given Sunday. It is imperative that we invest in stabilizing the ministry through this time period financially. It will take time for this new community we are developing to engage in giving financial support to the ministry.*

*Therefore, on behalf of Next Ministries, I would like to request that the Mission Council of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston consider local missions support for Next Ministries in an amount from $7,000 - $10,000 to help us continue to stabilize Next Ministries as we move towards fully developing our permanent digital presence with this mission field.*

*Thank you in advance for the consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have or further information you may need.*