



June 2008

An Open Letter to PCA Pastors and Other Key Church Leaders

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give His life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45*

Greetings in the Great Name of our Savior. At MNA, it is our great privilege to serve you, as you serve others in advancing God's Kingdom through proclaiming the Good News – that the Son of Man purchased our redemption through the giving of His own life.

My purpose in writing is to ask you to prayerfully consider encouraging the officers to make a commitment to the Ministry Ask giving to Mission to North America during 2009. The generous and faithful Ministry Ask giving of our churches equips MNA to serve our PCA churches and presbyteries in advancing God's Kingdom. If your church is already giving, please accept my heartfelt thanks!

God has given MNA a growing and faithful staff, who can serve you even more effectively during 2008 and 2009. In addition to the highlights mentioned on page two from the *MNA Report to the 36th General Assembly* – these new resources are available to you. Go to our web site – pca-mna.org – for further details and contact information:

- **Additional helps in recruiting, mentoring and training church planters.** In proportion to size, the PCA sends out church planters in numbers comparable to leading church planting denominations in North America. But we trust God for a greater harvest; new church planter recruiting resources are coming soon.
- MNA can now assist you in the development of **Special Needs Ministries**. For these services, call on **Stephanie Hubach**, who developed a special needs ministry at Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ephrata PA. This ministry is a great way to serve members of your congregation and to reach out to the people of your community with the hope that is offered in Christ.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministries:** a ten minute DVD is now available for encouraging the development of this ministry in your congregation. Order the DVD and invite **Nancy Booher, who directs this ministry for MNA**, to tell your congregation how they can grow in this means of outreach.
- **Disaster Response:** God has spared North America massive hurricane damage during the past two seasons, but localized disasters have struck in great numbers. MNA offers a Disaster Response Manual, by download from our web site, or you may order the CD. Led by **MNA Disaster Response Director Arklie Hooten**, MNA is working with a growing number of disaster response leaders and volunteers across the PCA.

How do we minister among the many people groups who are increasingly becoming our next door neighbors? ***Ministering Among the Changing Cultures of North America***, a paper MNA developed to guide ministry across ethnic and class lines, is now available in **booklet form**, making it easy to distribute these themes to your key leaders. MNA will be happy to send you the booklet and its companion DVD; [click here](#) to order.

Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ

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Some highlights of God's work through MNA during 2007, as reported to the 36th General Assembly:

- 53 church planters across the PCA began new mission churches, the third consecutive year of the PCA placing a new church planter on the field every week.
- 4 African American Teaching Elders were ordained, bringing the PCA total to 34.
- Haitian Ministries: 6 churches and mission churches are under way in the United States. El Shaddai Presbyterian in Miami FL had 60 baptisms in 2007; in Haiti, there were 2500 professions of faith.
- Across the PCA, there are at least 69 Hispanic ministries led by PCA churches and presbyteries. The majority of these have used MNA resources in their development.
- *Parakaleo*, MNA Church Planting Wives Ministry: the number of Regional Directors increased from 3 to 9 in 2007. Church planter wives cared for by a Regional Director increased from 10 to 70.
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministries: assisted 21 PCA Churches in starting ESL Schools in 2007; provided help/resource information to 157 churches in 2007.
- Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP): 131 students are enrolled in 18 learning sites. To date, 12 LAMP graduates are serving as pastors or elders in the PCA.
- Chaplain Ministries: 166 PCA endorsed chaplains serve in all military branches, VA hospitals, civilian hospitals, prisons and other institutions. This is up from 162 in 2006.
- MNA ShortTerm Missions and Disaster Response: distributed to each PCA church the first ever MNA Disaster Response CD Training Manual. Called Deacon Keith Perry as the first regional MNA Disaster Response Specialist primarily serving Florida, effective January 1, 2008. Total volunteers who have served after Hurricane Katrina (August 29, 2005), coordinated through MNA, exceeded 30,000 by the end of 2007.

Please join us in thanking God for these new advances in ministry; please support MNA at the level of \$26 per member per year, the same as in 2008, as well as supporting the work of all of the Committees and Agencies of the PCA. Ministry Ask guidelines from the PCA Administrative Committee are enclosed. All MNA ministry program staff members seek designated support for their personal support. This designated support is included in the \$26 Ministry Ask. MNA does not take administrative support fees from designated giving for church planting projects or any other designated projects. 100% of all designated support is used for the project for which it is given.

To order a brochure listing our services, [click here](#), or you may [click here](#) to read the brochure online. For additional information for your key leaders, visit our web site: pca-mna.org. Our website is a great source of information, so add our address to your Favorites and come back to visit our site often. Contact me (678-825-1200 or jbland@pcanet.org), or MNA Associate Coordinator Fred Marsh (404-307-8266 or fmarsh@pcanet.org) at any time, if you want to talk further about any of our ministries. Thank you for standing with us in the greatest cause to which we can be called – God's servants in advancing the Gospel.

Sincerely in Christ,



Jim Bland
MNA Coordinator

P.S. MNA: *Serving the Church to Advance God's Kingdom.* MNA serves churches and presbyteries as God advances His Kingdom through intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. We pray for greater growth in the Great Commission, trusting that God will make the PCA strong in all centers of influence and among all people groups across North America.

1 **PREFACE TO THE 2009 PARTNERSHIP SHARES STATEMENT**
 2 **FOR THE PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRIES**

3
 4 The working definition under which the 2009 Partnership Shares have been calculated is as
 5 follows.

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 7 *As a general statement, “Partnership Shares” describes the amount of money*
 8 *needed to cover the anticipated total expenses of a ministry minus earned income*
 9 *and minus funds designated to specific individuals who are missionaries, church*
 10 *planters, campus ministers, and staff (unless the ministry also guarantees the full*
 11 *compensation of the employee), as well as specific capital funds or similar*
 12 *designated monies. This portion of the approved expense budget is dependent on*
 13 *contributions from the PCA churches and individuals.” In every case the*
 14 **“Partnership Share” is permitted to be at least the General Administrative and**
 15 **Overhead portion of the particular ministry’s total budget. The numbers are**
 16 **expressed in “per communicant member” terms, a straightforward per capita**
 17 **giving formula: the division of total partnership shares divided by the latest**
 18 **statistical record for communicant members.**

19
 20 The above procedure creates a statistic used in various ways by the General Assembly
 21 Committees and Agencies that raise contributions. Likewise, the statistic is used in various
 22 ways by churches and individuals as they consider and determine the distribution of their
 23 contributions. **Note:** There is no requirement for any church to give the Partnership Share,
 24 only request and encouragement from the ministries to give as generously as possible.

25
 26 **All ministries struggle to raise Partnership Share funds, and none of the PCA**
 27 **ministries would be sustained without generous donors who give far beyond the**
 28 **Partnership Share.**

29
 30 The Partnership Shares of the GA ministries have evolved in different ways, a historical
 31 development that has led to varying interpretations and potential inequities in the statistics.
 32 Significant adjustments are being made through the 2007 to 2010 budget to correct these
 33 inequities.

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 35 For at least six years the Administrative Committee and/or the Strategic Planning
 36 Committee worked to resolve differences and transition to a more equitable and Biblical
 37 system without serious disruption to the financial well-being of the PCA ministries. This is
 38 not an easy knot to untangle without damaging some ministries financially. The issues and
 39 difficulties are more complex and diverse than can be put in a brief. **Beginning in 2005, the**
 40 **Committees and Agencies committed to make adjustments over a four-year period to**
 41 **bring greater clarity, accountability, accuracy, and understanding to the PCA**
 42 **budgeting and financial processes.**

43
 44 *This commitment by the Committees and Agencies means that it has become more and*
 45 *more important for all churches to support the PCA ministries as generously and*
 46 *sacrificially as they can. When churches choose not to support PCA ministries, they are*
 47 *virtually guaranteeing, in the present system, that the ministries cannot accomplish the*

Supplement: **ADDITION**

1 assignments given to them by the PCA General Assembly without finding other income
 2 sources. The problem is that if a Committee or Agency decreases in one year its Partnership
 3 Share request, all factors being equal, it receives less contribution in Partnership Shares
 4 during that year; that decline then compounds in a downward spiral in future years. So
 5 please give as generously as possible.

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**2009 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks
 of PCA Ministry Partners
 by the Participating General Assembly Ministries**

| Participating Ministries of the PCA | 2009 Total Expense Budget | 2009 Partnership Share Fund | | Per Capita Calculation | Ministry Ask | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| | | \$ Amount | % of Total | | \$ Per Member | Notes |
| AC | 2,133,556 | 1,378,556 | 6.70% | \$5.08 | \$6 | A |
| CEP | 2,353,700 | 1,248,500 | 6.07% | \$4.60 | \$7 | B |
| CC | 24,993,398 | 2,200,000 | 10.69% | \$8.10 | \$9 | C |
| CTS | 10,044,000 | 2,598,380 | 12.63% | \$9.57 | \$10 | D |
| MNA | 9,290,764 | 4,201,938 | 20.42% | \$15.48 | \$26 | E |
| MTW | 57,150,100 | 6,791,420 | 33.00% | \$25.01 | \$24 | F |
| RUM | 14,997,357 | 1,908,275 | 9.27% | \$7.03 | \$7 | G |
| RH | 1,243,350 | 250,000 | 1.22% | \$0.92 | \$3 | H |
| TOTALS | 122,206,225 | 20,577,069 | 100% | \$75.79 | \$92 | |

The total number of Communicant Members according to the 2007 statistics is 271,495. The Partnership Share Fund Amount is divided by this number to determine the Per Capita Calculation

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The following footnotes give each Committee's or Agency's rationale for its Ministry Ask.

Note A: The PCA AC is the “administrative hub” of our church. In this constitutional and General Assembly assigned role the AC depends on the financial support of the entire PCA community (our churches and members). Please give generously as you are able.

Note B. In order to fulfill the purpose established for Christian Education and Publications by the General Assembly, CEP requests each church prayerfully consider giving the “Ministry Ask” of \$7 per communicant member. If each church would give according to the “Ministry Ask” then the program of CEP would be fully funded. Currently, CEP receives full or partial support from 38% of PCA churches and 185 other donors; requiring CEP to cut or reduce vital ministry programs.

1 **Note C:** Covenant College was supported by 579 PCA churches giving \$ 1,222,007.48 and
2 by 1,458 individual donors giving \$4, 993,505.83 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007.
3 For those who wish to give per capita, Covenant College asks for \$9 per communicant member
4 for the 2008-09 academic year. For those who wish to qualify for the Church Scholarship
5 Promise Program (scholarships of \$1,000 and up), the college requests \$10 per member.
6

7 **Note D:** Church participation is a vital component of Covenant Seminary's preparation of
8 church leaders. Such support helps provide the highest quality pastoral preparation under the
9 oversight of the PCA, and enables future pastors to graduate without significant debt. For the
10 fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, churches gave \$927,327, requiring us to raise \$1,455,843
11 from other sources. We request a Partnership Share contribution of \$10 per member from
12 churches to help close this funding gap and further the PCA's efforts to train our pastors
13 without placing heavy tuition burdens on their futures and families.
14

15 **Note E:** MNA was supported in 2007 by 777 churches giving \$2,116,382; and 540 individual
16 donors giving \$822,627. The MNA Partnership Fund budget includes designated support
17 for MNA program staff members. 100% of all designated gifts to MNA go to their intended
18 project; MNA receives no administrative support from designated income. MNA requests
19 that churches give the Ministry Ask of \$26 per member, if giving on a per capita basis.
20

21 **Note F:** Churches that participate in the MTW Partnership Share make a significant difference
22 in the amount of assessment fees required of missionaries. If the Partnership Shares were
23 fully subscribed, there would be no fees required of our missionaries.
24

25 **Note G:** If all the churches subscribed to the Partnership Share request to RUM's general
26 fund, no fees would be required of our campus ministry accounts. RUM requests that
27 churches give the Ministry Ask of \$7 per member.
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29 **Note H:** As the only Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center in the United States providing
30 camping, conferencing, and retreat service opportunities from a Presbyterian, Reformed,
31 Biblical world and life view to all ages and serving guests from more than twenty-two states
32 annually, the Lord has given Ridge Haven an unparalleled opportunity worthy of the support
33 of all of the churches of the PCA.
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35 **General Notes**
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37 1. All the Committees and Agencies of the PCA need to be supported by all of our
38 churches and by many individual members. Please consider carefully that voting up the
39 budgets of the Committees and Agencies at General Assembly carries with it the ethical
40 responsibility to support these ministries of our Lord's church as you are able. Please give
41 as generously as you can to keep them functioning well.
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43 2. The Partnership Share presentation is given to you as presented above because an
44 agreement was made by all Committees and Agencies in February and March of 2005 to
45 present realistic budgets (i.e., best estimates of actuals) over a four-year period. The agreement
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Supplement: **ADDITION**

1 also included adjustments to the per capita calculations. If actual per capita is used for 2009,
2 the numbers are AC \$5.08, CE&P \$3.83, CC \$8.10, CTS \$9.57, MNA \$12.19, MTW
3 \$25.01, RUM \$7.03, and RH \$0.92. The four-year period was provided to avoid any serious
4 financial adjustment which could obviously impair ministry. This process of adjustment
5 will be completed with the 2010 budgets.
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7 3. **The Ministry Ask** is the amount each participating PCA Committee or Agency asks
8 PCA churches to contribute, per each of its communicant member, towards the Committee's
9 or Agency's Partnership Share Fund. The Partnership Share Fund is that portion of the
10 approved expense budget that is dependent on contributions from PCA churches and
11 individuals. Gifts designated "spread per Partnership Shares" (or some equivalent) and
12 totally undesignated gifts (which amount to less than \$3,000 a year) will be spread according
13 to the "Ministry Ask" column (by percentages of the total).