

Actions Requested by the Northern California Presbytery  
MNA Committee  
Regarding the Team Utah Covenant  
Church Planting Effort  
October 7, 2005

Summary:

The Sessions of the five current PCA churches in the Park City/Salt Lake City, Utah area formed an Advisory Committee and charged that committee with defining a vision of what steps are needed to move forward with a church planting movement, also with the inherent need to ensure the current churches prospered as part of this movement.

The Advisory Committee developed a mission statement and a vision statement, which are founded on the basis of the Great Commission from our Lord Jesus. Six proposals were presented to the five Sessions, with those proposals in total recommending engaging a ministry in the form of a church multiplication center, with a recommendation that Anthony Thomas (a ruling elder at Park City Presbyterian) lead the efforts of this ministry.

The proposals, which included each church tithing to the effort, were unanimously passed.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the evolution of church planting efforts within the PCA, which culminated with the present model of a church multiplication center as the most effective way to further God's Kingdom in this destitute region.

There are many positive aspects to creating this ministry, such as:

- Being a unifying entity among the five churches.
- Engaging in a purposeful mission to form a presbytery in Utah.
- Allowing Team Utah to step up into the "network" arena in order to compete for church planters and funds.
- Leveraging contributions from individual churches that otherwise cannot manage a church planting effort on their own.
- Allowing the existing churches to benefit from the positive activity generated.

The primary challenge is the present struggles of the five churches within the context of attracting much needed outside funds. The hope is that this ministry resonates with those who see the great challenges and the great opportunity to bring souls to Christ.

Key to the success of this ministry will be support in the form of prayer, dedicated representation by each church in the ministry plus funding by a tithe from each church, support by the Northern California Presbytery and a focus on fundraising and funding development.

The “Report to the Sessions by the Team Utah Advisory Committee, July 6, 2005” is attached for detailed reference.

Actions Requested:

- Affirm the actions of the Sessions of the five Utah PCA Churches (Grace Church of Utah, Hidden Valley Presbyterian, Jordan Presbyterian Church, New Song Presbyterian Church and Park City Presbyterian Church) in forming Team Utah Covenant, particularly:
  - Forming, as of June 1, 2005, a ministry on behalf of the churches that will incorporate a form of church multiplication center, including addressing the health of the existing churches.
  - The initial ministry budget, thereafter to be determined and managed by the ministry and its advisory board.
  - Calling Anthony Thomas as the Executive Director of the Team Utah Covenant ministry, who will guide a team comprised of one dedicated representative from each of the five churches (TE or RE) and one dedicated representative from the Team Utah TEs. The team will function as an advisory board for the Executive Director.
  - Supporting the ministry by prayer and by a tithe from each church. Separately funding the start up expenses of the ministry.
  - Receiving approval of this ministry from the Northern California Presbytery.
  - Supporting having the Executive Director being working with MNA to access their resources.
- Affirm/Support the recommendations of the Committee on Mission to North America (please see attached October 5-7, 2005 proposal from Jim Bland to the Audit Subcommittee – Approval to Receive Funds for Team Utah: Anthony Thomas), notably:
  - That Anthony Thomas be approved by the MNA Committee to receive regular support through MNA.
  - RE Thomas will provide Northern California with essential financial reporting and accountability under the presbytery’s oversight.
- Consider Team Utah Covenant as one of the “organization’s subordinates” as that term is used in the IRS 501(c)(3) letter (attached) to the PCA. Confirm this in writing separately to RE Thomas.
- Permit RE Thomas to register the PCA to do business in Utah.

- Permit RE Thomas to take the following actions as a subordinate of the PCA organization thereby being included in the group IRS exemption – in order to comply with Utah state requirements:
  - Seeking an exemption from Utah state taxes.
  - Seeking an exemption from Utah state sales taxes.
  - Submitting a Utah Charitable Organization Permit Application (copy attached).
- Provide financial support as a presbytery to this new church planting effort in concert with the tithes offered by the current five PCA churches in Utah.

Other Organizational Documents of Team Utah Covenant (attached):

- A Call to Anthony R. Thomas
- Draft Standing Partnership Rules of Team Utah Covenant