



July 2010

Open Letter to PCA Pastors and Key Church Leaders,

*...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,  
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.*

II Corinthians 5:19-20

All across North America, the message of reconciliation is needed. Reconciliation of people to God; reconciliation of people with one another – all made possible only through the mercies of our Lord, who died and rose again to bring reconciliation through forgiveness of sins and faith in Christ. Pray that the PCA will be faithful in sending out many more ambassadors across the United States and Canada. **I am asking you to encourage your church to make two commitments for 2010. If your church is already giving the Ministry Ask, thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting God's work through MNA.**

- 1. A greater commitment to church planting and other outreach ministry across North America, so that many more ambassadors are sent out.**
- 2. In order to provide the resources for this expanded proclamation, a commitment to the Ministry Ask giving to MNA and the other PCA Committees and Agencies.**

Through the vision of *Every Church Plant a Church (ECPC)*, MNA is encouraging your church to seek God's leading toward greater involvement in church planting, trusting God for a growing multiplication of PCA church planting. As more churches are planted, more ambassadors of reconciliation will be sent out.

ECPC is not an expectation that every church will send out a group of members to begin a church, though many will do this. ECPC is not an expectation that every church is involved in planting churches in the same way. Every new church is a unique work of God's Spirit, formed as God's people respond to God's call to love the people of their communities and advance the message of reconciliation among them.

What ECPC is: A waiting upon God in prayer for an ever greater work of His Spirit; stirring vision and zeal for the mobilization of our churches to plant churches who plant churches; encouraging God's people to respond to His call to begin new churches, as church planters and lay men and women are led by God's Spirit into church planting leadership. Churches will be planted by many methods among the great variety of people groups all across the communities of North America, calling for many different roles by many different people, and utilizing the great depth and variety of time, talent and treasure with which God has blessed PCA members.

**MNA offers many Church Planting resources to help facilitate your involvement in church planting.** Our staff includes leadership in church planting among African Americans, Haitian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Korean Americans, Native Americans/First Nations, Portuguese Language communities, and among the poor. **Outreach Ministries designed to serve established churches include:** Disaster Response, MNA ShortTerm Missions, Chaplain Ministries, ESL, Ministry to State, Prison Ministries and Special Needs Ministries. For a full list of our resources, including materials you can order, as well as staff contact information, go to: [pca-mna.org](http://pca-mna.org).

**Join us in thanking God for these new advances in ministry across the PCA during 2009:**

- **Church Planting:** 2009 was the fifth consecutive year in which the PCA placed at least one new church planter on the field in North America per week, on average. A greater number of men began church planter apprenticeships than in previous years, thus increasing the number in training for future mission churches.

These numbers include all PCA church planters; many were served by MNA staff and programs, while some were led and mentored entirely by individual churches or presbyteries.

- **Church Planting Spouses Ministry:** set up 5 new spouse coaching networks in 2009, bringing to 14 the total number of coaching networks in this ministry.
- **Hispanic American Ministries:** 32 distinct PCA ministries are now focused among Hispanic American peoples, including organized churches, mission churches and other outreach ministries.
- **Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP):** LAMP sites grew to 15 during 2009 with 45 total students. SpanishLAMP curriculum and preparation for SpanishLAMP Learning Sites is under way.
- **Native American/First Nations Ministries:** held the first PCA Native American/First Nations Talking Circle in September in Minneapolis MN. A second Talking Circle is planned for September 23-25, 2010 to meet in Billings MT, hosted by Rocky Mountain Community Church, PCA.
- **Chaplain Ministries:** at the end of 2009, there were 248 PRJC military chaplains (compared to 227 in 2008); 70 civilian chaplains (compared to 64 in 2008); 28 PRJC candidates (compared to 29 in 2008).
- **English As a Second Language (ESL):** Basic Training in 31 churches; 20 new ESL Schools began.
- **Metanoia Prison Ministries:** 138 active correspondence students and 113 instructors in 15 states.
- **MNA ShortTerm Missions & Disaster Response:** addressed Iowa floods; continued post Katrina rebuilding; added regional staff; conducted a disaster training event; and facilitated many short term missions projects.

These are only a few of the highlights. As you can see, God is at work through MNA. *Please support MNA at the 2011 Ministry Ask of \$26 per member per year (the same as in 2010), as well as supporting all PCA Committees and Agencies. Ministry Ask guidelines from the PCA Administrative Committee are enclosed.*

All MNA ministry program staff members seek designated gifts for their personal support. *MNA does not take administrative fees from designated giving for church planting projects or any other designated support. 100% of all designated support is used for the project for which it is given.*

We have a brochure listing MNA services. You may order by calling 678-825-1200 or [click here](#). Be sure to invite your elders and other key leaders to visit our web site; another great source of information for your key leaders, and keep us on your Favorites list: [pca-mna.org](http://pca-mna.org). Contact me (678-825-1200; [jbland@pcanet.org](mailto:jbland@pcanet.org)), Associate Coordinator Fred Marsh (404-307-8266; [fmarsh@pcanet.org](mailto:fmarsh@pcanet.org)), or Church Relations Director Stephen Lutz (828-242-1440; [slutz@pcanet.org](mailto:slutz@pcanet.org)), if you want to talk further about any of our ministries. Thank you for standing with us in the greatest cause into which we can be called – God’s servants in advancing God’s message of reconciliation through the Christ Who gave His life for us.

Sincerely in Christ,



Jim Bland  
MNA Coordinator

**P.S. MNA serves churches and presbyteries as God advances His Kingdom through intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. Please join with us in prayer for greater growth in our proclamation of the reconciling love of Christ. Pray that a steadily growing number of our churches will indeed seek God's direction in church planting.**

## PREFACE TO THE 2011 PARTNERSHIP SHARES STATEMENT FOR THE PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRIES

The working definition under which the 2011 Partnership Share Budgets have been calculated is as follows.

*As a general statement, “Partnership Shares” describes the amount of money needed to cover the anticipated total expenses of a ministry minus earned income and minus funds designated to specific individuals who are missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and staff (unless the ministry also guarantees the full compensation of the employee), as well as specific capital funds or similar designated monies. This portion of the approved expense budget is dependent on contributions from the PCA churches and individuals. In every case the “Partnership Share” is permitted to be at least the General Administrative and Overhead portion of the particular ministry’s total budget.*

Two important numbers for each participating ministry are provided by the Partnership Share and Ministry Ask calculations. First, the numbers located in the column labeled “Per Capita Calculation” are obtained by a per capita giving formula, which divides the Partnership Share Fund amount for each General Assembly Ministry by the total number of communicant members last reported to and accumulated by the Office of the Stated Clerk.

A second set of numbers under the column labeled “Ministry Ask” is provided for churches. The “Ministry Ask” is the amount of money each Committee or Agency is asking the churches of the PCA to give if the church would like to give to PCA Ministries on a “per member” basis. The amount listed in this column is generally an estimate of what each Committee and Agency needs to receive from each *donor* church per member in order for the Committee or Agency to raise their full budget approved by the PCA General Assembly.

**These two numbers provide churches and individuals with important factors as they seek to decide how to give to the PCA General Assembly Committees and Agencies. All PCA Ministries struggle to raise Partnership Share funds, and none of the PCA ministries would be sustained without generous donors who give far beyond the Partnership Shares. Please assist as generously as you are able.**

In short, the Partnership Share calculation is based on the inaccurate assumption that all churches have the same giving capacity per member and that all churches will give to all Committees and Agencies. The Ministry Ask is a more realistic figure.

**2011 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks  
of PCA Ministry Partners  
by the Participating General Assembly Ministries**

Participating Ministries of the PCA	2011 Total Expense Budget	2010 Partnership Share Fund			Ministry Asks
		P.S. Fund	% of Total	Per Capita Calculation	
AC	\$2,038,650	\$1,253,150	6.52%	\$4.58	\$7
CEP	\$1,820,000	\$833,000	4.34%	\$3.05	\$7
CC	\$26,736,453	\$2,200,000	11.45%	\$8.05	\$9
CTS	\$11,603,000	\$2,714,400	14.13%	\$9.93	\$10
MNA	\$9,351,935	\$3,225,228	16.79%	\$11.80	\$26
MTW	\$52,352,000	\$6,483,600	33.76%	\$23.72	\$24
RUM	\$17,191,162	\$2,296,309	11.96%	\$8.40	\$7
RH	\$1,303,000	\$200,000	1.04%	\$0.73	\$3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$122,396,200</b>	<b>\$19,205,687</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$70.25</b>	<b>\$93</b>

The total number of Communicant Members according to the PCA Administrative Committee was 273,388 as of December 31, 2009.

**GENERAL NOTE**

Gifts designated "spread per Partnership Shares" (or some equivalent) and the totally undesignated gifts (which amount to less than \$3,000 a year) will be spread according to the "Ministry Ask" column (by percentages of the total).