

July 2017

Dear Pastor,

Greetings in Christ! I pray that you are continuing to live and serve, by faith, in Christ the Crucified and Risen One. Amen.

John Smed, a dear friend and former MNA Church Planting Coordinator, now directing Prayer Current, an international ministry of prayer and evangelism, likes to ask this question as he travels about: **“What time do you think it is for the church in this part of the world?”** This is a good question for us to ponder here in the United States and Canada:

- Is it early in the day?
- Are we at the middle of the day?
- Is evening approaching?
- Or is it getting quite late?

Perhaps we are headed towards a nightfall for the church here, as the church in Europe has experienced, before a new dawn comes. Or maybe things are just getting started for us after several hundred years; maybe we will look more like the church in the Southern Hemisphere than the church in Europe in the decades ahead. No one really knows, save the Lord himself.

**Thankfully, the good news remains the same, no matter the hour.** As Peter encouraged the scattered and oppressed church in his time, so may we be encouraged with these words: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....” (1 Peter 1:3) **The central fact of world history, of church history, and of our own personal histories, is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which gives us hope at every moment.** We have hope as we preach the word, as we pray, and as we administer the sacraments in Jesus’ name. We pursue these means of grace in hope, no matter the hour. And the hope is certain: Christ is, in fact, raised from the dead! Therefore, as Paul encouraged the Corinthians, **we can, and should, remain steadfast and immovable in believing, living, and sharing the gospel, knowing that our labors will not be in vain!** (see 1 Corinthians 15:20,58)

In this sure and certain hope of the resurrection, MNA seeks to serve our PCA churches, presbyteries and church planting networks through providing vision, leadership, support, and encouragement for efforts in **church planting, church renewal and missional partnerships** for the sake of the gospel. **Church Planting provides the leading edge in opportunity for the advancement of the gospel.** It has become a cliché among those who are committed to church planting, because it is true: more people come to Christ through new churches than through long-established churches. **MNA works with churches, presbyteries and church planting networks to provide services to assist in church planter development and recruiting, assessment, fundraising, placement, training, coaching and ongoing mentoring once on the field. As we look back over the past 20 years, God has blessed the PCA to place a new church planter on the field at an average of about one per week.** For a denomination the size of the PCA, this represents an extraordinary level of commitment to church planting.

**Missional Partnerships** provide congregations and presbyteries with skills and avenues to serve people in their surrounding communities, making visible the invisible Christ and creating opportunities to share the gospel in a wide variety of community contexts. **MNA Missional Partnerships include MNA ShortTerm Missions, SecondCareer and Disaster Response; Chaplain Ministries, Ministry to State, Refugee and Immigrant Ministries, Metanoia Prison Ministries, English as a Second Language Ministries, and Special Needs Ministries.** Every year, each of these ministries adds staff to expand services, with the result that the PCA is engaged in a steadily growing mission that is Christ-centered and gospel-proclaiming throughout the United States and Canada.

**Church Renewal:** Our goal at MNA is to serve our churches and presbyteries as they seek to rise to the challenges of a culture that is constantly changing in its demographics and its religious and moral perspectives. Across the PCA, we adapt to our changing society in small but persistent steps. No big flashy programs. Just loving people to Christ – one at a time.

**Will you commit to pray with us in a greater way toward these ends? Will you also commit to something very practical and tangible – the financial support of MNA? The Ministry Ask for MNA is \$26 per member per year in 2018, the same Ministry Ask as in 2017. Will you please prayerfully challenge your church leadership to give a 2017 yearend special contribution to MNA; and increase, to whatever degree possible, your 2018 support for MNA?**

I would count it a privilege to meet with your church officers to discuss this further if that would be helpful. **Contact me (865-237-8178 or [phahn@pcanet.org](mailto:phahn@pcanet.org)), MNA Associate Coordinator Fred Marsh (404-307-8266 or [fmarsh@pcanet.org](mailto:fmarsh@pcanet.org)), or Church Relations Director Stephen Lutz (828-242-1440 or [slutz@pcanet.org](mailto:slutz@pcanet.org)), if you want to talk further about any of our ministries.** You can also visit our website: [pcamna.org](http://pcamna.org). Thank you for standing with us in the advancement of the Gospel and the church throughout the United States and Canada.

Warmly in Christ,



Paul Hahn  
MNA Coordinator

*...In fact Christ has been raised from the dead... Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (I Corinthians 15:20,58)*

# 2018 PARTNERSHIP SHARES STATEMENT FOR THE PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRIES

## PREFACE

The working definition under which the 2018 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 Share. Please assist as generously as you are able.**

In short, the Partnership Shares 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.

**2018 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks  
of PCA Ministry Partners  
by the Participating General Assembly Ministries**

Participating Ministries of the PCA	2018 Total Expense Budget	2018 Partnership Share Fund			Ministry Asks  \$ Per Member
		P.S. Fund	% of Total	Per Capita Calculation	
AC <sup>1</sup>	\$2,770,100	\$1,721,000	5.89%	\$5.91	<b>\$8</b>
CDM	\$1,708,700	\$790,000	2.70%	\$2.71	<b>\$7</b>
CC <sup>2</sup>	\$30,058,000	\$2,300,000	7.87%	\$7.90	<b>\$9</b>
CTS	\$8,937,502	\$2,100,000	7.18%	\$7.21	<b>\$10</b>
MNA	\$13,248,576	\$4,872,242	16.66%	\$16.73	<b>\$26</b>
MTW	\$55,236,056	\$8,679,667	29.69%	\$29.81	<b>\$30</b>
RUF <sup>3</sup>	\$34,062,314	\$8,074,282	27.62%	\$27.73	<b>\$28</b>
RH	\$2,131,000	\$700,000	2.39%	\$2.40	<b>\$4</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$148,152,248</b>	<b>\$29,237,191</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$100.42</b>	<b>\$122</b>

The total number of Communicant Members was 291,147 as of December 31, 2016, according to the PCA Administrative Committee.

**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).

**SPECIFIC COMMITTEE AND AGENCY NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> The PCA Administrative Committee requests that you contribute on the basis of 0.35% of total tithes and offerings (excepting contribution to capital campaigns for such efforts as new buildings). Please support us in this way if you are able to do so.

<sup>2</sup> By giving \$10 per member to Covenant College, churches qualify for the Church Scholarship Promise program at Covenant College.

<sup>3</sup> The portion of RUF's budget that General Assembly approves is \$12,822,672. The rest of this amount comes from budgets of churches and presbyteries that sponsor RUF works.