

# THE PMA MULTIPLIER

PMA<sup>3</sup> e-NEWSLETTER – EDITION 2 – OCTOBER 2019

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE OF PMA<sup>3</sup>

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of the PMA was held at Myrtle Grove EPC last month. During the second segment of the Order of the Day: Missional Focus, we multiplied out into three groups and had our first look at what our three future presbyteries will look like. Aside from looking around the room and getting a better picture of who's who in our proposed presbyteries, there was a breakout assignment dubbed *The PMA's Got Talent!*

Our Resource Committee, in a specially called planning session over the summer, spent time in thinking and praying through our PMA Mission Statement:

### **PMA MISSION**

**The mission of the EPC Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic is to resource, train and encourage one another to fulfill the Great Commission.**

In considering resourcing, training and encouraging one another, it was noted that we have ample resources among our own tribe, that the PMA's got talent! Why not mine the skills, talents, passions and experience of our own regional leaders, both TEs and REs, and curate the aggregate into self-directed and self-serving (in a good way) each other.

The breakout assignment was for groups of three or four to work together to identify leaders within our ranks who are able to speak to vital missional topics, issues, challenges and opportunities. Ideas were written on handout sheets, collected by the Resource Committee and entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. The results have far exceeded expectations. The volume of entries is substantial and we will see the first set of PMA in-house presenters at our 94<sup>th</sup> stated meeting at Darlington Presbyterian Church in January. Plan to be there!

## **UPDATE:**

### **From the PMA<sup>3</sup> Multiplication Team**

*<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

From the beginning of our discussions regarding the ministry of the presbytery the foundational understanding has been that everything we do has to be about the Mission of God in the world. The essence of the Gospel has always been God's illimitable love for the world and the mission upon which He embarked by sending His Son to seek and to save the lost. For this reason we have used the nomenclature of "missional regions" and "missional presbyteries" to keep before us that what we are about is not simply convenience, nor is it just about being more "efficient;" it is and will continue to be about releasing our churches *into* the mission of God in the world. And God's mission has never changed: It has always been about introducing people to Christ, calling people to be reconciled to God, discipling them into a biblical worldview, and *deploying the Church as witness* to the Gospel.

It is also a documented reality that the best instrument for bringing new people to Christ is the planting of new churches and we believe that we as presbyteries can, together, do more effective planting than any of our churches can do alone. Our prayer is that we will live into the call of Christ, that we will be "...ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us..." to reconcile the world to our God.

## GREAT COMMISSION

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)



## *From the Road . . .*

Bucky Hunsicker and Ken Priddy continue to log miles in crisscrossing the vast real estate that is the PMA. In part, this journey is to promote the GO PROJECT, an initiative to guide and support local churches in their efforts to reach the harvest and to help establish missional DNA in our three developing presbyteries.

For some years, the EPC Office of the General Assembly has encouraged us to describe the EPC as Evangelical, Presbyterian, Reformed and Missional. Without a doubt, we are Evangelical, Presbyterian and Reformed, but being Missional is a work in progress. The good news is that progress toward being a missional denomination has been made.

Likewise, for over a decade now the PMA has strived to become more and more effective in promoting missional ministry among our churches. As with the EPC at large, the PMA is clearly Evangelical, Presbyterian and Reformed, and being missional is a work in progress. We have made enormous strides in this area, and our PMA Council, the PMA<sup>3</sup> Multiplication Team, and the CDC in particular are working very hard to make sure, by the grace of God, the LORD of the harvest, that we don't lose the missional ground that we have gained. This is why the GO PROJECT is so important to our presbytery.

The GO PROJECT is a 10-year vision and strategy to revitalize over 1100 evangelical churches throughout the U.S. and across denominational lines. The first campaign, a pilot of 32 churches, overlaps in terms of its time frame with the multiplication of our presbytery into three. Our objective is to count a minimum of two PMA churches from each of our three projected presbyteries among this first 32.

In brief, the pilot will engage a church for 18-24 months of comprehensive revitalization with Ken Priddy serving as the primary trainer and consultant with direct hands-on ministry. Running parallel to the pilot will be two tracks, a developmental track to train additional trainer/consultants, and a research track to document the progress of the 32. This will lay the groundwork for the second campaign of 100 churches and the third campaign of 1000 churches. The progression over ten years is Crawl 32 – Walk 100 – Run 1000.

The first two churches have committed, one starting the process in November and the other starting in January. The first comes from the Presbytery of the East, Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon Valley, PA. The second is our very own First Presbyterian Church of Martinsburg, WV.

Consider having your church become one of the 32 churches in this important pilot. It's important for your church, for your proposed presbytery, for the PMA, for the lost in our communities and for the kingdom and glory of God. Contact Bucky or Ken for more info.

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## Future Stated Meetings

2020: 94<sup>th</sup> January 24-25; Darlington EPC  
95<sup>th</sup> April 24-25; River Oaks EPC  
96<sup>th</sup> September 25-26; Lake Forest EPC

In 2020, three Stated Meetings will be convened with all three developing presbyteries meeting in a shared location. Some docket elements will be attended together while others will be in three separate areas as we begin to establish our new identities.

2021: 97<sup>th</sup> January TBD  
98<sup>th</sup> April TBD  
99<sup>th</sup> September TBD

In 2021, three Stated Meetings will be convened with the three developing presbyteries meeting in separate locations within their projected geographical boundaries as we continue to establish our identities and begin to function fully as three separate presbyteries.