

# **Frequently Asked Questions – PMA Presbytery Multiplication**

## **Do we have the authority to operate as three Missional Presbyteries?**

We have not yet formally approached GA with the multiplication approach, as it is the proposal phase and requires approval by PMA to move beyond its current stage.

There is precedent within our own Presbytery to carry out certain tasks, such as examinations, without full participation of the entire Presbytery, under appropriate circumstances. We believe the model of multiplication that we are suggesting can become a model that will be emulated on a broader scale within our denomination.

If the multiplication proposal is approved by PMA, operational and organizational details will be further developed. General Assembly would then be advised of the intent of PMA to multiply.

## **Are we having separate Presbytery meetings, if so, when?**

We will have our next two Presbyteries in January 2019 and April 2019 as one consolidated PMA, without regard to any vote taken by PMA to multiply.

If there is a vote to move forward with the multiplication proposal, we will begin individual Presbytery meetings for each of the three in September 2019. The separate meetings will continue in January 2020.

In April of 2020 we are considering one consolidated meeting to have a discussion about how things are going and get feedback from the process. If such a meeting were to be held, we would expect that to be the last meeting of PMA as we know it, believing that all three Presbyteries will be fully focused on the issues and opportunities in their new regions.

If PMA does not approve the multiplication proposal we will continue to operate PMA as a stand alone entity.

## **How will committees, like MC, CDC, Stewardship, etc. work?**

Until a Presbytery is ready to operate separately PMA Central will continue to house the committees for all three Presbyteries with their rosters expanded to be certain that members from each of the three Missionary entities are being trained up.

## **What happens when one Presbytery is ready to go and the other two are not?**

Once a Presbytery is positioned to operate independently, it will do so. It will, however, continue to contribute on a financial and administrative basis to PMA Central until such time that all three entities are ready to operate independently.

### **How do we know each entity will be able to support themselves financially?**

A Presbytery will not be released to operate independently if it does not meet certain financial thresholds. The easiest way to accomplish financial independence is to improve our per member giving which is currently around 70% versus per member asking. In this way, each Presbytery has its own financial destiny in its own hands.

### **What if I have concerns about which Presbytery my church is placed in?**

The multiplication development process considered a variety of alternatives where geographic placement is concerned. Accomplishing our Mission of reaching the lost for Christ is the central focus of the multiplication.

There is a very careful balance of church finances, geographic proximity, and assessment of leadership capabilities that are reflected in the map presented for review and affirmation. We do not believe it would be wise to alter the distribution of churches as it is designed.

If a church or churches wish to make an appeal for a change in proposed Presbytery affiliation, council will receive them, but only a very compelling or extraordinary case would cause PMA to change a church's placement into a different Missional Presbytery.

### **How do we know that each Presbytery will raise up leaders to carry out its responsibilities?**

We are challenged in today's Presbytery to raise up enough leadership to carry out our Missional responsibilities as they currently stand. The premise of the argument is that multiplication will create an opportunity for stronger bonds within a more reasonably sized entity raising the likelihood that leaders will be raised up to more effectively pursue the cause of Christ.

There is no guarantee of success, but based upon the growing pains suffered as a very large PMA and our declining participation, we postulate that one of the primary issues getting in our way is the size and unwieldy nature of our current PMA. This does NOT indicate that the efforts of our leadership have been lacking. In fact if our leadership had been weaker we would not have been successful in receiving all the churches we have in the last 3-5 years.

In sum, the structure of our current PMA is struggling to move forward with a Missional approach and multiplication is proposed to address that concern.

### **How long do we think that multiplication process will take?**

We estimate 3 to 5 years.

### **What happens if it doesn't work?**

If one or more Presbyteries are not released as independent entities they will remain as PMA.

### **What if I have additional questions?**

We suggest that you bring any questions to the three video conferences schedule for October 8, 9 and 10. The links are posted on the PMA website. The benefit of bringing the question in a group forum is that your inquiry might prompt other questions from the body that all would benefit from.

### **When is a vote scheduled on the proposal?**

January 2019. The study committee has requested that Council put in place a super majority vote, meaning that at least 2/3 of those able to vote at the January 2019 meeting of Presbytery would have to vote in the affirmative to move ahead.