

Presbytery Study Team Report and Recommendation

At the 87th meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, Dr. Howard Shockley, our beloved Administrative Director/Stated Clerk appointed an ad hoc committee with the following mission:
To brainstorm and explore who we are as a presbytery at present and to discuss how we see ourselves going forward.

The specific mission of this team is to review and recommend processes that will help the presbytery be the most effective we can in fulfilling the stated mission:

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

In light of that mission statement, we were asked to review the following matters:

1. The mission of a presbytery
2. The configuration of our presbytery
3. The geography
4. The staffing of the presbytery

Our team has been meeting regularly since the January meeting. As to the mission of the presbytery we do not believe the mission statement requires revision; the question before us is how we best implement that vision to multiply the effectiveness of our churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. In light of our PMA mission, we are seeking to recommend a viable biblical and missional strategy for the multiplication of our Presbytery.

One overarching goal is to increase the participation in the presbytery, particularly among Ruling Elders. Below are the top 10 Motivators of this discussion

1. To live into our mission
2. To equip, empower and encourage our churches to reach the harvest
3. To set a trajectory for health and multiplication in the future
- 4. To encourage engagement in the PMA, particularly among Ruling Elders**
5. To encourage connectional relationships among those engaged in the PMA
6. To ease travel burdens to attend Presbytery as much as possible
7. To leverage the financial strength of the PMA
8. To leverage the leadership strength of the PMA
9. To leverage the staff strength of the PMA
10. To make the future happen (not just let the future happen)

The committee was asked to bring back a report to the presbytery within a year, that helped to clarify where we are headed, What God's plan for the future" looks like, and how this future vision impacts geography and staffing, to fulfill our mission to make disciples. The committee members who stand before you today have worked through the past year to discern that to which we believe the Lord is calling us. I express my gratitude to each member. They are:

Rob Buchanan
Anita Hill

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Duke Lineberry
Scott McGregor
Ken Priddy
Powell Sykes
Jan Teagle
Wes Vander Lugt
Bill Enns, Chair

Today we bring a recommendation to you to multiply our presbytery into three to fulfill our mission. Several of our committee members will be making presentations to you to help you understand our rationale.

No Decision will be made on these recommendations today. This is a day for presentation of the philosophy behind the recommendations, an outline of the geographic proposals and rationale, and a time for you to ask questions and make comments. This matter will not be decided upon until our January meeting. We are also asking council to require a 2/3 Super majority to act on this recommendation.

The Presbytery Multiplication Study Team recommends that the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery multiply into three regions represented on the accompanying map. These three regions will begin to function following a favorable vote by the Presbytery in January, 2019.

PMA Central

To facilitate the development of the three regions prior to their becoming regionalized presbyteries we are recommending the creation of an administrative leadership team we have chosen to call "PMA Central." *It is imperative we understand that PMA Central is not a geographic region; it is the personnel and committee chairs that will guide the development of the regions into presbyteries.* The creation of these presbyteries into fully-functioning units will require diligence and attention to processes that cannot be fulfilled without appropriate staffing.

It is also critical to our understanding that in this configuration there is no "parent" presbytery in this model. All three regions will be designated as Mission Presbyteries with PMA Central overseeing and coordinating their development.

Structure of PMA Central

Staff

PMAC will include the current staff of our Mid-Atlantic presbytery:
Dr. Bucky Hunsicker as Transitional Administrative Director
Dr. Rob Buchanan as Stated Clerk, and trainer of Stated Clerks for the regions
Dr. Ken Priddy, Director of the G.O. Center

Committees/Teams

At present the current ministry teams/committees will be expanded to assure that each of the mission presbyteries has sufficient fully-trained members when regionalization occurs. This means Ministerial Committee, CDC and Stewardship, in particular, will be expanded to include appropriate representation from each of the regions. Each of the regions will identify Moderators-elect of those committees from the beginning of the process.

Council

Each of the regions will elect a Moderator, Moderator-elect and a Stated Clerk.

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The Executive Council for PMA Central will include the Stated Clerks, Moderators and Moderators-elect of each region, and the Moderators-elect of each of the committees with PMA Central Staff coordinating.

Finances

In the transition period we will operate with a completely unified budget. The Stewardship Team of PMA Central will track the giving by region and be responsible for the paying of all obligations for all of the regions. Each of the regions will contribute from their receipts to fund PMA Central.