

# THE PMA MULTIPLIER

PMA3 e-NEWSLETTER – EDITION 1 – AUGUST 2019

## **THE MISSION OF THE PMA: Fulfilling the Great Commission**

Many pastors, elders, church staff and leaders see attending a regional denominational meeting as a necessary evil or a begrudging duty. Of course, there might be traces of that sentiment in the PMA, but for the majority of us, attending our three annual meetings is much more, even to the point that many have expressed looking forward to our times together. Why is that?

### **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.**

The PMA has boldly gone beyond the norm, transcending mere duty to embrace a regional calling, the calling to be an aggregate tool of many congregations to be wielded in God's hands for His purpose. What is His purpose? Day by day He is building His church and adding to the number those who are being saved. His family is growing and this family will live with Him forever. He will be their God and they will be His people. The gathering and growing in number and maturity is captured in the Great Commission, and this purposeful movement is captured in the PMA Mission Statement.

What are we about? We are about the fulfillment of this Great Commission. How are we doing that? We're resourcing our leaders and congregations, we're training pastors and leaders in church health, growth and multiplication, and we're encouraging each other through grace, fellowship, prayer, accountability and worship. We're not perfect, but we're blessed. We're looking ahead at multiplying the uniqueness of our presbytery into three presbyteries that will continue to strive to fulfill the Great Commission. We are the PMA.

## **UPDATE:**

### **From the PMA Multiplication Team**

Following the April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, the process of shaping the three missional regions began in earnest. There are two critical committees required for each region as we anticipate the creation of new presbyteries: The Ministerial Committee and the Church Development Committee. The current chairs of these committees were contacted and asked to expand their current teams to include a critical mass from each region so that, when we begin to meet separately, those two teams will be ready to assume their responsibilities.

The other committees will have more time to develop. For 2020, while for business sessions we will meet as three regions, for the Order of the Day and for worship we will continue to meet together. The Stewardship Committee and the Missions Committee, with the staff, will continue to resource all the regions through 2020.

The process to full multiplication will continue to unfold. We will have milestones that we have to meet as we go along. Among the most important milestones will be the approval of the General Assembly. That process requires that the proposal be presented at one General Assembly and voted on by the next.

Behind all this strategy is one over-riding priority: The planting of new churches that introduce people to the Living Lord Jesus Christ and lead them into being a people whose worldview is shaped by the Gospel.

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### **THE 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 . . .*



At nearly 180,000 miles, I can honestly say: I LOVE MY JOB! From the highways and byways of Cross Lanes, WV, to John's Island, SC, the paved and gravel roads between Weems, VA, and Hendersonville, NC, and the endless Interstates and hotels from Martinsburg, WV, to Abbeville, SC, it's a wonderfully crazy thing we copartner in ministry to call the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery! As Missional Director, I made the commitment to visit all 126 of the worshipping communities we lovingly call the PMA. And having visited over 90 personally, worshipping and sharing meals with Pastors and Ruling Elders, I can rejoice with each of you knowing your love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ and your unwavering dedication to your congregations and communities.

Just a few observations: As we move further into our Multiplication process what I am hearing from you is a sadness to say goodbye to something we have worn so comfortably but also an increasing excitement at the new thing God is doing in our midst. I cannot say that we have transitioned completely from "transfer" growth to "transformational" growth within the PMA but what I can say is that I can probably number the transfer churches that will enter the PMA on one hand in 2020 while needing BOTH hands to number the church plants arising within our missional regions. As the Executive Council met in August to go over the proposed 2020 budget, I was blown away to see that over 25% of your Per Member Askings in 2020 are going to start new churches throughout the PMA. In 2021 I am hoping it will take both hands and both feet to number the plants springing out of the PMA and that every worshipping community in our bounds will be either a Parent, Partner or Patron in planting churches.

I am further thrilled at the prospects of both large and small church revitalization that is happening within each

of the 3 proposed missional regions knowing that healthy churches plant churches. We pray toward the end that all of our worshipping communities are disciple making disciple, church planting churches that are learning how to share the good news of God's incredible love and mercy to us in Jesus Christ within our work places, schools, neighborhoods, families and friends.

Do we have a lot of work ahead of us? YES! But I can see it coming together. As I watch the various committees expanding to create 3 new presbyteries, and witness the incredibly unselfish willingness to serve that I see in our Pastors and Ruling Elders, I am both humbled and energized to move forward. So, if you are one of the 30 worshipping communities who have yet to lay eyes on me, call me out on it because I cannot wait to meet you and see what God is doing in your community.

Until our roads cross...

In Him,  
Bucky Hunsicker

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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.

### **THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

**And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)**