

J O I N I N G H E A R T S & H A N D S



A Campaign to Renew the Church for Mission

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 22:37-40

Christ’s Great Commandment



Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands

A Campaign to Renew the Church for Mission



Joining Hearts & Hands

“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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

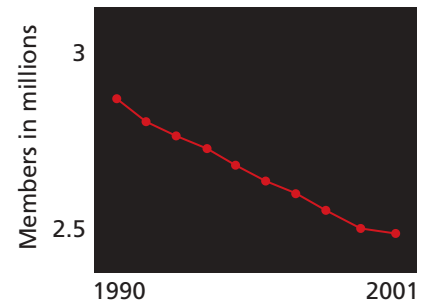
**Matthew 28:18-20
Christ’s Great Commission**

The Church of Jesus Christ is built on the redeeming love of God. That love has the power to transform people of every culture and class into a community living together, joining hearts and hands as the household of God.

As far back as 1837, the General Assembly declared that the Church’s mission is to share with all the world the love of God in Jesus Christ in word and deed. Historically, Presbyterians have preached the Gospel, alleviated hunger, responded to disasters, healed the sick and educated new generations. Our international partnerships have been strong and fruitful, spreading the Gospel and touching lives. Our congregations have been the cornerstones of countless communities throughout our country. Our Church fostered a new nation and shaped and formed great leaders in the

20th century. Our members have been guided by the Gospel in the struggle for civil rights, advancements in education and developments in science.

Sadly, the dawn of the 21st Century marked a point of unprecedented decline in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Denominational efforts for revitalization, while well intentioned, proved ineffective and membership numbers decreased. Funds were no longer available to sustain our international mission efforts at the level of previous periods of expansion and success. Yet, in the midst of this denominational recession, God is doing a great thing. There are plans for new congregations and expanded mission opportunities. Christ’s promised resurrection is found in a renewal of the PC (USA) for mission at home and around the world.



Jesus persistently calls his followers to the task of mission. Christ’s message resonates today as loudly as it did 2,000 years ago. God calls each of us to be a witness. We are to be led by the Spirit in the work of the Gospel with our neighbors, in our community and around the world. We believe and understand Christ’s commission. However, in the past 20 years, our

The Mission Initiative



resources have limited our ability to ambitiously expand local and international mission. Our commitment has been strong, but we have not realized the full potential of mission opportunities.

Because we honestly recognize the gift of Christ, as the Great Commission calls us to do, we must expand our efforts in joyful celebration with our neighbors near and far. Jesus' charge to his apostles at the end of the Gospel of Matthew is ambitious and strategic. It demands commitment and results. The PC (USA) can have no greater priority than to carry out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of our Lord, to the glory of God - this is *our campaign to renew the church for mission*.

Joining Hearts & Hands is a call to action. The 214th General Assembly, in 2002, voted by an overwhelming 97% in favor of this campaign to renew the Church for mission. This action is a clear mandate for the Church to take additional measures both at home and abroad to renew the PC (USA). No such initiative or proposal before the General Assembly has seen such tremendous support in recent history. The commissioners of 173 Presbyteries, mission workers and pastors sent a resounding message to the whole Church.

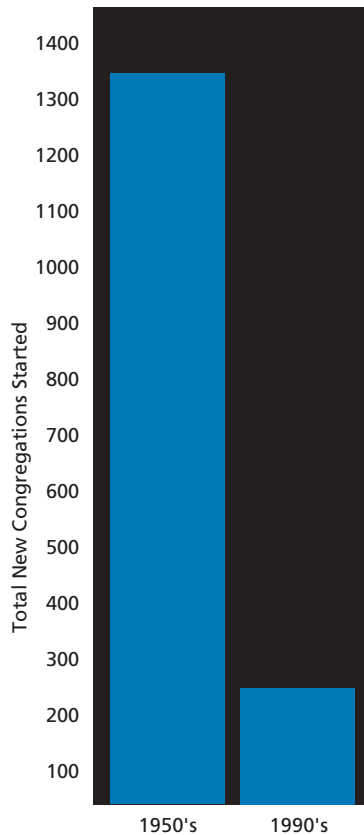
Joining Hearts & Hands is crucial. Mission is not optional for the Church, it is a commandment. The Scriptures do not merely suggest that we proclaim the Gospel message in word and deed, the Scriptures instruct us to proclaim it. Christ does not imply that we should give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger and clothe the naked or visit the sick and imprisoned, Christ directs us to do so. It is not simply a recommendation that we call others into a faithful relationship with our God, it is a mandate. The Church is the instrument of God's mission in the world. Through the Church we share the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Joining Hearts & Hands is a sacred mission. It is the same mission to which Jesus persistently called his disciples to implement with the assurance that, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8). Christ has entrusted this mission to us. We are Christ's voice, hands and heart in the world.



Mission At Home

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) currently has 2.5 million members, but in the last decade we have experienced a decline in total membership and a decline in congregational size. New Church starts have slowed to 25% of the pace of the preceding decades.



From 1990 to 2000, the PC (USA) lost 400,000 members.

As of 2002, 24% of our congregations had 50 or fewer members.

Today, fewer than 10% of all congregations have between 200 and 800 members.

The key to reversing this decline is both retention of members in existing congregations and development of new congregations. We have not only lost members in our pews, but also have failed to start and maintain enough new church developments to stem the declining tide. Between 1990 and 2000 the PC (USA) organized 292 new congregations; this number pales when compared to the period between 1950 and 1960 when 1,345 congregations were established. In the past decade, only one-third of our congregations grew, while two-thirds did not.

Reversing these trends means that we must hold fast to familiar hands by nurturing the children, youth and young adults of our congregations. It means helping congregations develop worship styles and resources for young families, youth and children. Reversing these trends means touching new hearts by expanding local congregations. It means redeveloping congregations by providing needed resources and personnel. It means establishing congregations in communities where people seek to know Christ and find fellowship with others. It means nurturing congregations that provide worship, study and education in language-specific communities of faith.

Holding Hands, Winning Hearts

Joining Hearts & Hands will ensure that we can accomplish these goals by providing funds that will

- Increase New Church Developments - Start traditional profile, young family-focused, racial-ethnic and new immigrant congregations. Assist Presbyteries to determine the feasibility of new churches in particular places. Identify, train and coach entrepreneurial pastors for new church development.
- Expand Redevelopment of Congregations - Facilitate congregational growth through evangelism. Help existing congregations that are responding to their changing demographics. Hire new staff for churches that have increased in membership by 150 or more in a three-year period.
- Support Existing Fellowships - Support church leaders through salary supplement and study opportunities. Purchase language-specific Bibles, hymnals, the PC (USA) Book of Order and the PC (USA) Book of Confessions.
- Assist Specialized Ministries - Strengthen Outreach Programs for Children, Youth and Families.
- Undergird the Loan Program to Congregations - Increase funds available to congregations for property acquisition and building construction.

Total for New Church Development and Church Redevelopment

\$20,000,000

Mission Around the World



The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be represented by almost 450 long-term and short-term mission personnel in 2003, working in close cooperation with 165 partner Churches in 80 countries. This deployment in international mission affords Presbyterians the opportunity to live out Christ's commission in ways that individuals or separate communities of faith could not accomplish on their own.

Our women and men on the mission field are engaged in a variety of ministries. They preach the Gospel where it has never been heard before. They reach out with helping hands, providing urgent medical care that saves lives on a daily basis. They teach where learning is valued, but where there has been no one before to establish classrooms.

Without new funds, Presbyterians will not be able to send those who preach and teach the Gospel. These ministers are vital in order to realize global opportunities for Christian discipleship. Without new funds, transformation of lives through encounters with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world will not be possible. Gifts to this campaign will send new international mission personnel and will respond directly to the urgent needs of the people they serve. With new funds, we will be able to send teachers and medical personnel to communities that have already asked for help.

Joining Hearts & Hands will make it possible for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to place new women and men on the mission field.

These individuals include:

New long-term compensated mission personnel

New long-term volunteer mission personnel

New short-term volunteer mission personnel

Helping Hands, Healing Hearts

***Joining Hearts & Hands* will renew our mission by providing funds for**

- Regional Experts - Long-term service mission personnel who have extensive training in the language, culture and history of the communities and Churches they serve.
- Partner Church Leaders - Church leaders from around the world who come and serve in ministry in the United States, often focusing on new Church development work with immigrants. This particular type of ministry is a bridge to existing congregations and enhances knowledge of worldwide mission efforts.
- Mission Educators and Replacement Personnel - Mission leaders who periodically return to the United States and serve within Presbyteries to educate others about their work. These funds will support and allow the Church to fill the vacant overseas positions on an interim basis while the Mission Educators are in the United States.
- International Volunteers - These individuals makeup three key groups - Young Adults, Reconciliation and Mission Volunteers, and Global Interns. Funds will allow the PC (USA) to expand recruitment and placement. Recent experience indicates that roughly 25% of these individuals enroll in seminary or assume other Church leadership upon their return.
- Compensated Specialists - Specialists such as Educators of Leaders, Frontier Evangelism Workers, Special Project Enablers, English Teachers, Disaster Response Trainers, Community Development Specialists and Health Consultants will be supported.

Total for International Mission Personnel

\$20,000,000



Join with us in Mission

Joining Hearts & Hands invites you to take part in this vital work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Your interest, financial gifts and prayerful support will make a tangible difference in the world. Together we can revitalize congregations, establish new congregations, reach out to immigrant communities and touch young families. Together we can touch hearts, meet urgent needs and share the Good News with people around the world. Join with us in mission as we work towards Christ's reign of justice, peace and abundant life. Join us for the sake of the Church and to the glory of our God.

Gift Plan		
Assumes a three-year pledge period		
Number of Gifts	Amounts	Totals
1	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
1	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
1	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
4	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
6	\$750,000	\$4,500,000
10	\$500,000	\$5,000,000
16	\$250,000	\$4,000,000
20	\$100,000	\$2,000,000
50	\$50,000	\$2,500,000
many	\$25,000	—
Grand Total		\$40,000,000

All *Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands* funds will be used over and above the existing budgetary amounts. The General Assembly Council (GAC) will document how funds are spent. The campaign Steering Committee will review all expenditures in order to ensure that funds are used within the guidelines approved by the General Assembly.

Fund-raising costs associated with this campaign have been provided for by the GAC through budget year 2004. Fund-raising costs will be deducted from campaign proceeds for 2005 to 2007. Costs are estimated at 8% to 9% of the campaign goal.

Solicitation for this \$40 million campaign for mission is scheduled to conclude in 2007. Income from this campaign will be utilized through 2012. Pledge periods of 3 to 5 years are encouraged. The sustainability of programs created by this campaign may be contingent upon future campaign efforts.

Involved Hands, Committed Hearts

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