

## **A MISSION SUPPORT PLAN FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF CHARLOTTE**

The Presbytery of Charlotte is fortunate to have been selected for a Pilot Project by the Stewardship Division of the General Assembly Council.

Approximately a dozen people gathered in early September to hear about the proposal from the Reverend James VandeBerg, who would serve as our designated staff for this project over the next three years. The group was very enthusiastic since Presbytery's Vision Statement had already highlighted the need for stewardship education and emphasis in the Presbytery. On October 15, Presbytery's Council was introduced to the proposal and endorsed it in principle. On November 15, 2005, the Council heard a follow-up report and strongly recommends the following plan to the Presbytery.

### **Objective of the Pilot Project:**

To build a Mission Support Program which will provide adequate and sustained mission funding for the Presbytery of Charlotte and the basic missions of the greater Church. It is expected that local Sessions, as well as higher governing bodies, will benefit from having a financially healthy Presbytery of Charlotte. This Project will also assist our local churches in developing and improving their stewardship activities with a goal of increasing church incomes.

### **A. Key Principles and Tasks for this Project:**

- 1) There are no secrets, or another way to put it, we will honor the sunshine law. Everyone has a right to know about the receipt and expenditure of all money.
- 2) Interpretative materials for the program will be presented at the February 2006 Presbytery meeting.
- 3) The Presbytery of Charlotte will take formal action to approve "Fair Share Asking" from each Session at the May Presbytery meeting.
- 4) The "Fair Sharing Asking" is a minimum of a tithe (10%) keyed to the most recent year's Regular Contributions reported by a church on line 20 of its Annual Statistical Report (i.e., 2007's asking will be based on 2005's line 20).
- 5) A local Session will have a two to four year staggered increase to reach the 10% Basic Mission Support Tithe.
- 6) Sessions already budgeting above 10% in Basic Mission Support are challenged to increase their giving by at least 1% of line 20.
- 7) The Presbytery of Charlotte will solicit and diligently work on receiving written Pledge Covenants from each Session by the May Presbytery Meeting. For those congregations on a Spring Stewardship cycle, Pledge Covenants would be received by the July Presbytery meeting.
- 8) The Presbytery of Charlotte will regularly provided detailed progress reports on church asking, acceptances, and giving at Presbytery meetings.

