

Special issue: World Mission retooling

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WORLD MISSION BEING RETOOLED

New staff structure will serve grassroots mission initiators

The Presbyterian World Mission program area is retooling its ministry to respond to the growing number of grassroots Presbyterians who are participating in God's mission around the globe, World Mission director Hunter Farrell announced today.

World Mission has created three associate director positions, including one charged with leading a work area dedicated to training congregational mission committees, mission networks and other mission initiators. A search will be launched for an associate director to lead that work area, which is called Equipping the Church for Mission, and for a mission training materials specialist who also will serve in that area.

"This 'retooling' responds to the needs of the 230 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission leaders and global partners I have interviewed over the past six months," said Farrell, who began his current assignment last August 1. "Whereas for decades the General Assembly Council 'did' international mission in behalf of the denomination, changes in international travel and communication have opened up new possibilities for Presbyterians to participate in international mission."

Farrell said he found that World Mission's constituencies want it to continue to deploy high-quality, long-term mission personnel, serve as a nexus for the growing network of Presbyterians involved in mission work, and equip the church for mission.

Equipping the Church for Mission and two other work areas, Mission Partners and Programs, and Mission Personnel, will seek to meet the needs of World Mission's constituencies, Farrell said.

"In essence we are trying to take the highly effective ways we have been doing mission in partnership with global partners around the world and apply them to mission initiators and mission personnel from our own denomination."

Read more at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08070.htm>

A "PROFOUND" MISSION CONSULTATION

Dallas conference seen as a historic breakthrough in relationships and praxis

In an unprecedented attempt to commit to a shared set of core values and practices around how Presbyterians engage in mission, a diverse group gathered in Dallas Jan. 16-18 and formally outlined a way to move forward together.

The "Renewed Call to Presbyterian Mission in the World" consultation brought together leaders from the PCUSA World Mission program unit and other Presbyterian entities engaged in mission around the world, including the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the Outreach Foundation, the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and the Presbyterian Global Fellowship, as well as representatives from other groups, local churches, mission networks, and several international partners.

Convened by the General Assembly moderator, Joan Gray, the consultation was designed "to create a broad and open space where mission leaders from across the church and around the world could meet together, deepen trust and develop a shared set of core values and specific mission practices which these values require," Hunter Farrell, director of World Mission, told the assembled group.

The disparate group of about 60 Presbyterians participating in the consultation formulated a statement called "An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission," which includes tasks for moving ahead. To read more and download the document visit <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/renewed.htm>.

In her blog Linda Valentine, GAC executive director, called the consultation "profound." She said "breakthrough," "watershed," "historic," "moving of the Holy Spirit" were among the words used to describe what happened. And "hope"- "hope for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for our witness in the world, our respect, encouragement and support of each other." Linda Valentine's blog, "Let Your Light Shine!" is available at <http://www.presbyterian.typepad.com/lindavalentine/>