

2010 PCA STRATEGIC PLAN ITEMS APPROVED BY THE 38th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THEME #1: CIVIL CONVERSATION

Goal: Establish places to enter into civil conversations about the best ways to advance the PCA's faithfulness to biblical belief, ministry, and mission.

- Means #1:** Provide public forums at GA to discuss difficult subjects or new ideas without vote, offering charitable judgments among elders in the fellowship of ministry.
- Means #2:** Encourage similar forums in the presbyteries (possibly continuing discussion from each year's GA).
- Means #3:** Encourage gatherings of non-agreeing enclaves to discuss major denomination-changing or culture-changing ideas, and how to live together with differences.

THEME #2: INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

Goal: Increase involvement by providing more opportunities to utilize greater variety of people and life experiences (especially younger leaders, women, ethnic leaders, and global church representatives) in the discussions concerning PCA ministry direction and development.

- Means (General):** Involve representatives from constituencies vital to the church's future in denominational leadership (e.g. advisory voice on committees, sessions, boards, speaking at gatherings, consulted by presbyteries, employed in non-ordained ministries). Utilize the valuable insights of people from different backgrounds as we consider ministry in the context of our changing culture.
- Means (Specific) #1:** Invite younger-generation leaders onto GA boards and committees (especially for specific initiatives).
- Means (Specific) #2:** Encourage multi-generational gatherings with mentors.
- Means (Specific) #3:** Invite ethnic and global leaders to address GA, presbytery, and local church gatherings.
- ~~**Means (Specific) #4:** Establish standards for voluntary certification of men and women for specific non-ordained vocational ministries. [Not approved]~~
- Means (Specific) #5:** Formalize a CEP Women's Ministries organization for women in vocational ministries.
- Means (Specific) #6:** Develop a credible and rigorous alternative credentialing process for men from disadvantaged constituencies, enabling them to attain the same ordination standards expected of a traditional M.Div. seminary graduate.

THEME #3: IN GOD’S GLOBAL MISSION

Goal: Find ways to participate corporately in God’s Global Mission with exemplary unity, humility and effectiveness, bringing sound biblical understanding to the largest expansion of Christianity in world history.

- Means (General):** Provide internal means and will to make the PCA a significant contributor to God’s Global Mission (includes learning from the global church, as well as unifying ourselves to minister to and with the global church).
- Means (Specific) #1a:** Identify and support national and international efforts that develop centers of influence to engage the culture with Reformed thinking and leadership (e.g. church-mercy-evangelism, church-school-community mission, church-arts/media-outreach, church-university ministry-discipleship).
- Means (Specific) #1b:** Fund joint research of Covenant College and Covenant Seminary, CEP, MTW, and MNA re: the most effective centers of influence to engage the culture with Reformed thinking and leadership and how to multiply them beyond the PCA.
- Means (Specific) #2:** Develop a “unifying” (not unified) funding means to support PCA ministries and mission culture; features to include: (a) ability for all churches, presbyteries, delegated REs and TEs to participate (e.g. annual registration fees to support AC, erase GA fees); (b) necessity of all in the PCA to participate at a meaningful level; (c) non-participants having voice but without vote at GA; (d) all Committees and Agencies other than AC funded (continuing current practice) by Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks. [Declared moot]
- Means (Specific) #3:** Provide mechanism to identify and support only GA ministries most critical to our calling; the mechanism for evaluation to be worked out in proposal form by the Coordinators, referred to the CMC, and presented to the GA within 3 years.
- Means (Specific) #4:** Partner with national and international ministries with whom we can most effectively participate in God’s Global Mission by: (a) seeking union or appropriate levels of cooperation with Reformed movements making Gospel progress and in harmony with our ethos and goals; (b) regularly evaluating our participation in those organizations with whom we share doctrinal history and ministry priorities, in order to help ensure each organization’s ministry effectiveness; (c) finding new ways to give away our knowledge and resources to bodies of believers being spiritually blessed.