

## **PREFACE TO THE 2008 PARTNERSHIP SHARES STATEMENT FOR THE PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRIES**

The working definition under which the 2008 Partnership Shares have been calculated is as follows.

*As a general statement, “Partnership Shares” describes the amount of money needed to cover the anticipated total expenses of a ministry minus earned income and minus funds designated to specific individuals who are missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and staff (unless the ministry also guarantees the full compensation of the employee), as well as specific capital funds or similar designated monies. This portion of the approved expense budget is dependent on contributions from the PCA churches and individuals.” In every case the “Partnership Share” is permitted to be at least the General Administrative and Overhead portion of the particular ministry’s total budget. The numbers are expressed in “per communicant member” terms, a straightforward per capita giving formula: the division of total partnership shares divided by the latest statistical record for communicant members.*

The above procedure creates a statistic used in various ways by the General Assembly Committees and Agencies that raise contributions. Likewise, the statistic is used in various ways by churches and individuals as they consider and determine the distribution of their contributions. **Note:** There is no requirement for any church to give the Partnership Share, only request and encouragement from the ministries to give as generously as possible.

**All ministries struggle to raise Partnership Share funds, and none of the PCA ministries would be sustained without generous donors who give far beyond the Partnership Share.**

The Partnership Shares of the GA ministries have evolved in different ways, a historical development that has led to varying interpretations and potential inequities in the statistics. Significant adjustments are being made over the next four budget years.

For at least six years the Administrative Committee and/or the Strategic Planning Committee have been working to resolve differences and transition to a more equitable and Biblical system without serious disruption to the financial well-being of the PCA ministries. This is not an easy knot to untangle without damaging some ministries financially. The issues and difficulties are more complex and diverse than can be put in a brief. **The Committees and Agencies have committed to make adjustments over a four-year period to bring greater clarity, accountability, accuracy, and understanding to the PCA budgeting and financial processes.**

*This commitment by the Committees and Agencies means that it will become more and more important for all churches to support the PCA ministries as generously and sacrificially as they can.* When churches choose not to support PCA ministries, they are virtually guaranteeing, in the present system, that the ministries cannot accomplish the assignments given to them by the PCA General Assembly without finding other income sources. The problem is that if a Committee or Agency decreases in one year its Partnership Share request, all factors being equal, it receives less contribution in Partnership Shares during that year; that decline then compounds in a downward spiral in future years. So please give as generously as possible.

**2008 Budgeted Partnership Shares and Ministry Asks  
of PCA Ministry Partners  
by the Participating General Assembly Ministries**

Participating Ministries of the PCA	2008 Total Expense Budget	2008 Partnership Share Fund		Per Capita Calculation	Ministry Ask	
		\$ Amount	% of Total		\$ Per Member	Notes
AC	2,087,119	1,115,619	5.40%	\$4.18	\$5	A
CEP	2,727,350	1,457,500	7.06%	\$5.46	\$7	B
CC	24,460,545	2,200,000	10.65%	\$8.24	\$9	C
CTS	9,220,000	2,410,660	11.67%	\$9.03	\$10	D
MNA	8,806,470	4,976,666	24.10%	\$18.64	\$26	E
MTW	55,360,052	6,472,298	31.34%	\$24.24	\$24	F
RUM	13,867,142	1,707,688	8.27%	\$6.40	\$7	G
RH	1,360,450	313,550	1.52%	\$1.17	\$3	H
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>117,889,128</b>	<b>20,653,981</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$77.36</b>	<b>\$91</b>	

The total number of Communicant Members according to the 2006 statistics is 267,028. The Partnership Share Fund Amount is divided by this number to determine the Per Capita Calculation

**The following footnotes give each Committee's or Agency's rationale for its Ministry Ask.**

**Note A:** Our PCA constitution, endorsed by the General Assembly, designates the AC as the administrative hub of the denomination. As such, the AC merits the financial support of all the PCA churches and members, and we do not hesitate to ask you to give. If commissioners on the floor of General Assembly adopt the AC budget (or any other Committee or Agency budget), a commitment to support what has just been adopted needs to follow. Please give generously to keep the AC and all of our General-Assembly-level ministries on target to accomplish their missions.

**Note B:** In order to fulfill the purpose established for Christian Education and Publications by the General Assembly, CE&P requests that each church prayerfully consider giving the "Ministry Ask" of \$7 per communicant member. If each church would give according to the "Ministry Ask," then the program of CE&P would be fully funded and churches would be benefited by greater access to training opportunities and ministry resources which are designed specifically for the PCA.

**Note C:** Covenant College was supported by 576 churches giving \$1,039,418.37 and by 1,564 individual donors giving \$3,271,722.51 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. For those who wish to give per capita, Covenant College asks for \$9 per communicant member for the 2007-2008 academic year. For those who wish to qualify for the Church Scholarship Promise Program (scholarships of \$1,000 and up), the college requests \$10/member.

**Note D:** Church participation is a vital component of Covenant Seminary's preparation of church leaders. Such support helps provide the highest quality pastoral preparation under the oversight of the PCA, and enables future pastors to graduate without significant debt. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, churches gave \$746,930, requiring us to raise \$1,620,470 from other sources. We request a Partnership Share contribution of \$10 per member from churches to help close this funding gap and further the PCA's efforts to train our pastors without placing heavy tuition burdens on their futures and families.

**Note E:** MNA was supported by 688 churches giving \$2,187,061 and 400 individual donors giving \$749,868 in 2006. MNA program staff members seek designated salary and ministry expense support to make up for church giving that is less than the Ministry Ask level; this support to program staff members is included in the MNA Partnership Fund budget. Church planters, MNA missionaries, and other projects are not included in the MNA Partnership Fund budget. MNA requests that churches give the Ministry Ask of \$26 per member, if giving on a per capita basis.

**Note F:** Churches that participate in the MTW Partnership Share make a significant difference in the amount of assessment fees required of missionaries. If the Partnership Shares were fully subscribed, there would be no fees required of our missionaries.

**Note G:** If all the churches subscribed to the Partnership Share request to RUM's general fund, no fees would be required of our campus ministry accounts. RUM requests that churches give the Ministry Ask of \$7 per member.

**Note H:** As the only Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center in the United States providing camping, conferencing, and retreat service opportunities from a Presbyterian, Reformed, Biblical world and life view to all ages and serving guests from more than twenty-two states annually, the Lord has given Ridge Haven an unparalleled opportunity worthy of the support of all of the churches of the PCA.

### **General Notes**

1. The Partnership Share presentation is given to you as presented above because an agreement was made by all Committees and Agencies in February and March of 2005 to present realistic budgets (i.e., best estimates of actuals) over a four-year period. The agreement also included adjustments to the per capita calculations. If actual per capita were used for 2008, the numbers would be AC \$4.18, CE&P \$3.89, CC \$8.24, CTS \$9.03, MNA \$11.95, MTW \$24.24, RUM \$6.40, and RH \$0.68. The four-year period was provided to avoid any serious financial adjustment which could obviously impair ministry.

2. **The Ministry Ask** is the amount each participating PCA Committee or Agency asks the PCA churches to contribute, per each of its communicant members, towards the Committee's or Agency's Partnership Share Fund. The Partnership Share Fund is that portion of the approved expense budget that is dependent on contributions from the PCA churches and individuals. Gifts designated "spread per Partnership Shares" (or some equivalent) and the totally undesignated gifts (which amount to less than \$3,000 a year) will be spread according to the "Ministry Ask" column (by percentages of the total).