



Presbytery of Chicago

April 16, 2009

Dear Colleague in Ministry,

With joy, the Stewardship and Financial Development Workgroup of the Chicago Presbytery offers this gift to you for a new year in ministry. We pray that this resource will enrich the life of your various ministries with faithful conversation, prayer, and meditation upon God's Word in scripture. Our lives are so filled with the demands of busy schedules that we need a breath of God's Holy Spirit to pause our bustle and gather us in Christ's name for the purposes we share.

This resource is designed to help your leaders catch their collective breath. The contents have been drawn from our Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer book. The readings and prayers have been arranged in a way that can be easily used by church leaders. As you share common joys and concerns, we entreat you to keep the ministries of our Presbytery, listed at back, within your hearts, prayers, and plans for shared ministry.

Finally, we note that it is the 500th birthday year of John Calvin, founder of our Christian tradition; he called the church "The Company of the Faithful". We believe he understood what we affirm in unison by faith: that by God's grace – Together We Can Do More!

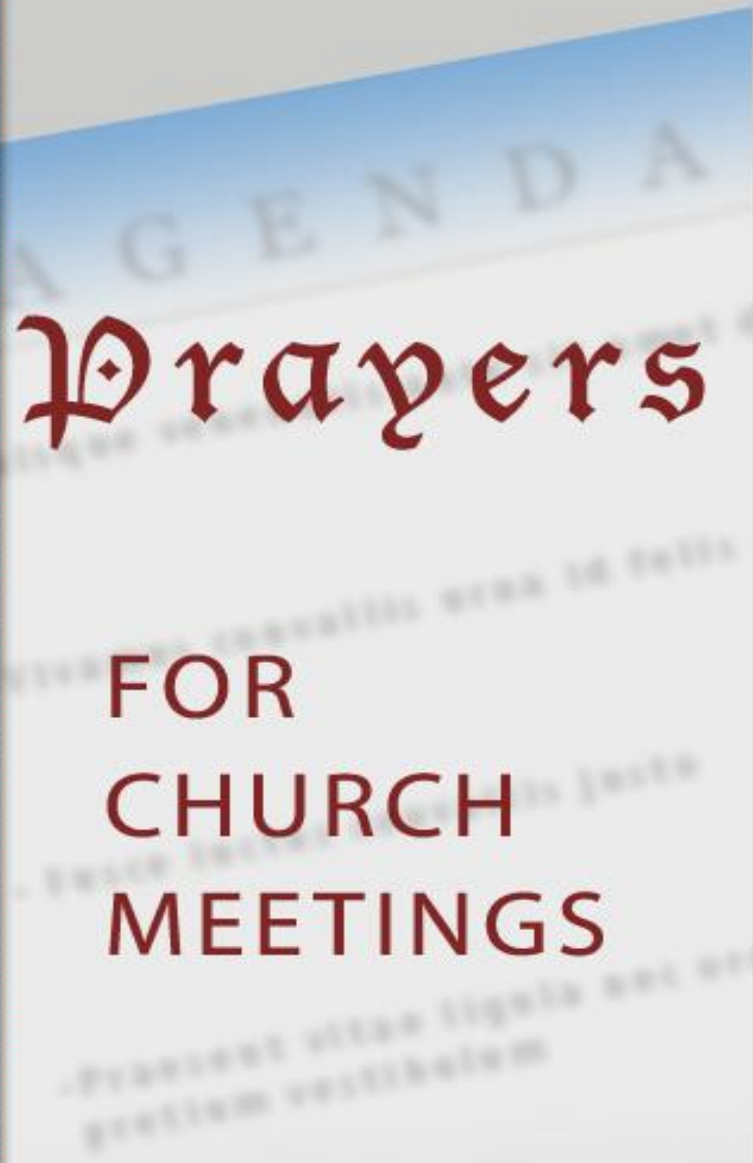
In Christian Unity,

The Stewardship and Financial Development Work Group of the Presbytery Council

Gerry Bloomer, Chicago Fourth
Annette Calderwood Shoemaker, Wheaton First
Nancy Dederer, Moderator, Homewood
Jim Kunze, Wheaton Hope
Gerry Parker, Chicago Lincoln Park
Brian Paulson, Libertyville
Bob Reynolds, Executive Presbyter
Allena Williams, Chicago Cornerstone

100 South Morgan Street - Chicago, Illinois 60607-2619 - tel: 312-243-8300 - fax: 312-243-8409

Web page: www.chicagopresbytery.org



FOR
CHURCH
MEETINGS

2009 Edition



Presbytery of Chicago

Dear brothers and sisters in faith,

We are grateful that the Presbytery of Chicago is strong in Shared Mission Giving. We give thanks to God for your participation as a partner church in Shared Mission, and we offer you this *Prayers for Church Meetings* guide as a gift.

This booklet includes twelve opening prayer devotions for you to use with Session, committees, or ministry team meetings in your church. Each devotion begins with a brief prayer and psalm, followed by a time of sharing common mission, ministry and life. We encourage you to highlight and pray for one or more of our Presbytery mission team covenants to Advance Justice, Empower Ministry and Develop Congregations. Brief descriptions of covenants activated during 2008 are in the back section of this booklet.

Our purpose is two-fold: First, to help our congregation members learn about the vast number and variety of ways our Shared Mission proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ, and second, to draw our churches together in prayer for our presbytery's mission as well as for individual joys and concerns. Together we can do more in Christ.

We hope this devotional guide will be a blessing to you. Feel free to adapt it to meet your needs. Additional copies are available by contacting Allena at the Presbytery office:

(312) 243-8300, ext. 1319.

Grace and peace,

The Stewardship & Financial Development Work Group
of the Presbytery of Chicago

Gerry Bloomer, Chicago Fourth
Annette Calderwood Shoemaker, Wheaton First
Nancy Dederer, Moderator, Homewood
Jim Kunze, Wheaton Hope
Gerry Parker, Chicago Lincoln Park
Brian Paulson, Libertyville
Bob Reynolds, Executive Presbyter
Allena Williams, Chicago Cornerstone

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Eternal God, in your loving wisdom you set us beside the fountain of life, like a tree planted by running streams. Fill us with a love of your wisdom, that we may bear fruit in the beauty of holiness; through Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen

Psalm

Read Psalm 1

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Clergy Retreat
- Wicker Park Grace New Church Development
- Multicultural Church Ministry Team
- Inner City Messiah

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

Merciful God, we praise you that you give strength for every weakness, forgiveness for our failures, and new beginnings in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the guidance of your spirit through this day, for signs of new life and hope, for people who have helped us, for those who struggle for justice, and for expressions of love unexpected or underserved.

Almighty God, you know all needs before we speak our prayers, yet you welcome our concerns for others in Jesus Christ. Especially we pray for those who keep watch over the sick and dying, for those who weep with the grieving, for those who are without faith and cannot accept your love, for the aged who are lonely, distressed or weak, and for ministry partners in other denominations.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

To you, O God we give up the burdens of this day, trusting your love and mercy. To you, O God, we surrender ourselves, trusting our risen Lord to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Gracious God, in whom all hearts are glad and all souls rejoice; show us the path of your presence, that we may follow it in hope and be filled with resurrection joy; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen

Psalm

Read Psalm 16.

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery.

- Cuba Partnership Mission Team
- South Asian New Church Development
- Youth Ministry

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

Give us your peace, O God, that we may rejoice in your goodness to us and to all your children, and be thankful for your love revealed in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for people who reveal your truth and righteousness, people with courage to be bold disciples and people who show hospitality.

We thank you for surprises that have blessed us and the unity of the church of Jesus Christ. Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for us and all your children, as we remember the needs of others. Especially we pray for friends, relatives and neighbors in special need; for those who suffer hunger and thirst, for leaders of the broader church.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

As you have made this day, O God, you also make the night. Give light for our comfort. Come upon us with quietness and still our souls, that we may listen for the whisper of your Spirit and be attentive to your nearness in our dreams. Empower us to rise again in new life to proclaim your praise, and show Christ to the world, for he reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Eternal God, you know what is in our hearts and minds; you test us to strengthen our faith. Keep your love always before us, and direct our steps, that we may be steadfast in your way and join with all your saints to give you praise, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 26

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Dakota Partnership
- God's New Thing on the Northwest Side
- End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team
- Hispanic Ministries in Chicago Presbytery

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

We lift our voices in prayers of praise, holy God, for you have lifted us to new life in Jesus Christ, and your blessings come in generous measure. Especially we thank you for the privilege of worship and service in this congregation, for the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ for us, for food and drink to share in the Lord's name, and for our calling to discipleship.

We hold up before you human needs, God of Compassion, for you have come to us in Jesus Christ and shared our life so we may share his resurrection. Especially we pray for the healing of those who are sick, for comfort for the dying and for their loved ones, for the renewal of those who despair and for the Spirit's power in the church.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

God, our shepherd, you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm our souls, and refresh us with your peace. Keep us close to Christ and draw us closer to one another in the bonds of his wondrous love. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Eternal God, you satisfy our hunger by feeding us with the bread of life, and you quench our thirst for righteousness by your mighty acts. Nourish us always by your Spirit, that we may grow into the stature of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 36

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- D.W.E.L.L./Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)
- Genesis Covenant
- Ghana Partnership

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

We rejoice in your generous goodness, O God, and celebrate your lavish gifts to us this day, for you have shown your love in giving Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world. Especially we give thanks for the labors of those who have served us today, for friends with whom we have shared, for those whom we love and who have loved us, for opportunities to help others, for all beauty that delights us.

Gracious God, we know you are close to all in need, and by our prayers for others we come closer to you. We are bold to claim for others your promises of new life in Jesus Christ, as we claim them for ourselves. Especially we pray for those in dangerous occupations, for physicians and nurses, for those who are ill or confined to nursing homes, for those who mourn, for our ecumenical partners.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken. Unite us with the scattered peoples of the earth that we may be one family of your children. Bind up all our wounds, and heal us in spirit, that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior. Amen.

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

God power and righteousness, you stand in power over all authorities, and you rule over all governments. Let the people of the earth rejoice and the leaders of nations follow the way of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 47

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Touchstones: A Place for Spirituality
- African American Congregational Transformation
- Missional Discovery

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you being with us today, and for every sign of your truth and love in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the gift of peace in Christ, for reconciliation in our relationships, for each new insight into your love, for energy and courage to share your love, and for the ministries of the church.

Gracious God, we remember in our own hearts the needs of others, that we may reach up to claim your love for them, and reach out to give your love in the name of Christ. Especially we pray for racial harmony and justice, for those imprisoned, for strangers we have met today, for friends who are bereaved, for ministry partners in other countries.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

Abide with us, for the days are hastening on and we hasten with them. Abide with us, O Lord, for evening comes and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with all your faithful people, until the daystar rises and the morning light appears, and we shall abide with you forever. Amen

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Lord God, in a threatening world, we look to you as our rock of hope. Hear us as we pour out our hearts to you, and give us your grace and protection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 62

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Agape House at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Worship Alive
- Youth Ministry

Invite participants to share particular concern or joys.

Prayer

We give you our praise and thanks, O God, for all gifts of love we have received from you, and for your persistent mercy in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the work we have accomplished pleasing to you, for the faithful witness of Christian people, for the example of righteousness we see in parents and teachers, for the innocence and openness we see in children, and for all works of Christian compassion.

We give you our cares and concerns, O God, because we know you are kind and care for your children in every circumstance. Especially we pray for those who struggle with doubt and despair, for people afflicted with disease, for those called special ministries, for people neglected or abused, and for ministry partners who serve you in far off places.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer:

To you, O God we give up the burdens of this day, trusting your love and mercy. To you, O God, we surrender ourselves, trusting our risen Lord to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

Prayer for a Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

God our strength, you give honor to the pure in heart and uphold all who trust in you. Deliver us from chasing after this world's illusions that we may follow instead the imperishable truth of your Word in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 73

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Hispanic Bible Study (2008-2009)
- Disaster Assistance Response Team
- Presbyterian Camps at Saugatuck

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

Merciful God, we praise you that you give strength for every weakness, forgiveness for our failures, and new beginnings in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the guidance of your spirit through this day, for signs of new life and hope, for people who have helped us, for those who struggle for justice, and for expressions of love unexpected or underserved.

Almighty God, you know all needs before we speak our prayers, yet you welcome our concerns for others in Jesus Christ. Especially we pray for those who keep watch over the sick and dying, for those who weep with the grieving, for those who are without faith and cannot accept your love, for the aged who are lonely, distressed or weak, and for ministry partners in other denominations.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

God of all who fear you, make us one with all your saints and with any who are in need. Teach us to befriend the weak, and welcome the outcast, that we may serve the Lord Jesus Christ and live to offer him glory. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for a Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Eternal God, you redeemed humanity by sending your only Son in fulfillment of your promises of old. Let the truth and power of your salvation be known in all places of the earth, that all nations may give you praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 98

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Spiritual Formation and Education
- Christopher House
- Project Freedom
- Chicago Samong

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you being with us today, and for every sign of your truth and love in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the gift of peace in Christ, for reconciliation in our relationships, for each new insight into your love, for energy and courage to share your love, and for the ministries of the church.

Gracious God, we remember in our own hearts the needs of others, that we may reach up to claim your love for them, and reach out to give your love in the name of Christ. Especially we pray for racial harmony and justice, for those imprisoned, for strangers we have met today, for friends who are bereaved, for ministry partners in other countries.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

Protect your people, O God, and keep us safe until the coming of your new dawn and the establishment of your righteous rule. By your Holy Spirit, stir up within us a longing for the light of your new day, and guide us by the radiance of Jesus Christ your Son, our risen Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Lord, while our days vanish like shadows and our lives wear out like a garment, you are eternal. Although our earthly lives come to an end, help us to live in Christ's endless life and at length attain our home, the heavenly Jerusalem, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 100

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Philippines Solidarity Project
- Mission Council 8 activities
- Empowering Homeless Individuals
- Midway Community Choir

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

God of glory, we praise you for your presence in our lives, and for all goodness that you shower upon your children in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for promises kept and hope for tomorrow, for the enjoyment of friends, for the wonders of your creation, for love from our parents, sisters, brothers, spouses and children, and for the pleasures of living.

God of grace, we are one with all your children, for we are sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, and we offer our prayers for all whom we love. Especially we pray for those we too often forget, and people who have lost hope, for victims of tragedy and disaster, for those who suffer mental anguish and for ecumenical councils and church agencies.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

God of all who fear you, make us one with all your saints and with any who are in need. Teach us to befriend the weak, and welcome the outcast, that we may serve the Lord Jesus Christ and live to offer him glory. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

Eternal God, in the order of your creation you have given righteousness, justice, peace and love for the enlightenment of all people. Keep us always in that light so that throughout our lives, we may show forth the glory of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 112

Sharing of our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery

- Continuing Education Scholarships
- South Asian New Church Development
- United Christian Ministry at Northwestern University

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys.

Prayer

Give us your peace, O God, that we may rejoice in your goodness to us and to all your children, and be thankful for your love revealed in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for people who reveal your truth and righteousness, for courage to be bold disciples, for those who show hospitality, for surprises that have blessed us, and for the unity of the church of Jesus Christ.

Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for us and all your children, as we remember the needs of others. Especially we pray for friends and relatives who are far away, for neighbors in special need, for those who suffer hunger and thirst, for those who work at night while others sleep and for leaders of the broader church.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence with the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

Abide with us, O Lord, for evening comes and the day is almost over. Abide with us, for the days are hastening on and we hasten with them. Abide with us and with all your faithful people, until the daystar rises and the morning light appears, and we shall abide with you forever. Amen.

Prayer for an Evening Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

O God, you come to us in the depths of our darkest despair, in the suffering of Jesus Christ. By the rising of your Son, give us new light to guide us, that we may always praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 130

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Housing for Homeless Families
- Committee on Women in the Church (domestic violence)
- Hope First

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys

Prayer

We lift our voices in prayers of praise, holy God, for you have lifted us to new life in Jesus Christ, and your blessings come in generous measure. Especially we thank you for the privilege of worship and service in this congregation, for the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ for us, for food and drink to share in the Lord's name, and for our calling to discipleship.

We hold up before you human needs, God of Compassion, for you have come to us in Jesus Christ and shared our life so we may share his resurrection. Especially we pray for the healing of those who are sick, for comfort for the dying and for their loved ones, for the renewal of those who despair and for the Spirit's power in the church.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

God our shepherd, you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm our souls, and refresh us with your peace. Keep us close to Christ and draw us closer to one another in the bonds of his wondrous love. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Meeting

Welcome your participants and begin the meeting with this prayer:

Convening Prayer:

God of creation and fulfillment, help us to seek and discover your purposes, that we may become willing instruments of your grace, and that all the world may come to love and praise your name, in the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

Read Psalm 138

Sharing our common mission, ministry and life

Suggest prayer for the following Mission Covenants of the Presbytery:

- Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team
- Building Community thru Language
- Presbytery of Chicago Educators

Invite participants to share particular concerns or joys

Prayer

We give you our praise and thanks, O God, for all gifts of love we have received from you, and for your persistent mercy in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for the work we have accomplished pleasing to you, for the faithful witness of Christian people, for the example of righteousness we see in parents and teachers, for the innocence and openness we see in children, and for all works of Christian compassion.

We give you our cares and concerns, O God, because we know you are kind and care for your children in every circumstance. Especially we pray for those who struggle with doubt and despair, for people afflicted with disease, for those called special ministries, for people neglected or abused, and for ministry partners who serve you in far off places.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Commence the Business of the meeting

Concluding Prayer

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken. Unite us with the scattered peoples of the earth that we may be one family of your children. Bind up all our wounds, and heal us in spirit, that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior. Amen

Mission Covenants
(as of 1/2009)

Empower Ministry

Building Community thru Language

To teach English and Spanish Language skills to non-native speakers to facilitate communication.

Clergy Retreat

Encourages friendship among clergy, cross cultural relationships and cross cultural partnerships.

Continuing Education Scholarships

Provides scholarships for clergy and lay leaders to attend seminars, conferences and continuing education events that support and train them in their respective ministries.

Hope First

A city-suburban covenant that provides resources (computer literacy, Spanish language instruction, job training and mentoring) for inter-generational church and community members.

Inner City Messiah

Worshipful musical advent celebration.

Mentor Training Orientation for Pastors

Ecumenical mentor orientation to the role, responsibility and expectations of mentoring covenant partners.

Presbytery of Chicago Educators

Provides encouragement, fellowship, resources and nurture to the educators of the Presbytery.

Spiritual Formation and Education

A Resource, guide and educator for Presbytery's congregations and members to explore the spirituality of our reformed tradition.

Southside Christian Education Council

Biblical literacy component providing a forum for education, and training and support for Church School Educators and their congregations.

Touchstones: A Place for Spirituality

Provides educational outreach program with an interfaith perspective to “The Glen” a new planned community in Glenview, IL. Partners with the community to reach seekers or those who list no religious preference.

Worship Alive

Interactive training in worship arts.

Youth Ministry

Support and revitalization of youth ministry efforts, including annual Middle School Weekend Retreat, annual Senior High Weekend Retreat, annual hands-on mission opportunity called A Work of Love (AWOL), annual Confirmation Retreat, and encourages youth leadership and participation as General Assembly delegates (YAD) and Youth Triennium participants.

Develop Congregations

Missional Discovery

Instrument to help congregation assess their alignment with missional organizations and aids in the congregations’ discernment of their missional vocation, Biblical formation and discipleship and missional authority.

Chicago Samong

Establish a young emerging congregation of Korean immigrants in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

South Asian New Church Development

Establish a congregation of South Asians, worshipping in their native language and respecting existing cultural and religious values, while providing outreach and social justice work.

Wicker Park Grace

Establish a congregation in Wicker Park based on a centered, generous, dynamic Christianity utilizing post-modern/emergent paradigm.

Advance Justice

Christopher House

Provides programs for child and youth development, teen parent services, literacy classes, counseling and emergency assistance to a disenfranchised and low income population.

Committee on Women in the Church (COWIC)

Advocacy for prevention of domestic violence.

Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)

Helping communities who are adversely affected by crisis or catastrophic events, coordinating and organizing responses and aid.

Empowering Homeless Individuals

Provides a safe place for the homeless to eat and sleep and operates a comprehensive program to empower homeless men and women to make life changes and remove barriers to housing.

End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team (EHHMT)

Educate and mobilize congregations to address root causes of hunger, homelessness and poverty; promote One Great Hour of Sharing, Cents-ability and the Homelessness offerings.

Housing for Homeless Families

Creating a model for congregations to support homeless families for two years, including family healing, recovery, job training and affordable co-op housing.

Midway Community Choir

Community building through choral music, providing free performing arts opportunities and promoting peace and understanding among residents of the Midway community.

Philippines Solidarity Project

Organize an effective Illinois legislative lobby that raises the voice of the people in the Philippines, educate about the situation of the Filipino marginalized society, and plan a delegation to the Philippines.

Project Freedom

Serves ex-offenders and homeless men by providing food, housing, Bible Study, counseling, mentoring and support services to aid in their reentry into society.

Multi-Team Covenants

African American Congregational Transformation Covenant

Support for metro/urban ministry and mission outreach among predominately African American congregations to revitalize the Presbyterian presence in the center of the city and engage in social justice ministry to those in need.

Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America (CSLA)

Educate and mobilize individuals and congregations to advance human rights in our hemisphere in solidarity with Latin America, the Presbyterian Church of Colombia and with Afro-Colombians..

Cuba Partnership Mission Team

Mission partnership between the Presbytery of Chicago and the Presbytery of Havana. Travel to Presbytery of Havana for worship, Bible study and mission strategies; assist them with special need mission projects; encourage advocacy for improved relations between the United States and Cuba.

Dakota Partnership

Promotes Christian values within nine Native American churches in Montana and South Dakota, providing year-long contact with Chicago Presbytery congregations, stipends for pastors, educational materials, mission programs and computers.

DWELL/Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)

Provides opportunities for young adults to explore their call to ministry. YAV's serve for one year in communities of need, meet for prayer and Bible study, and work with mentors to grow in their expression of faith.

Genesis Covenant

A fellowship of seven Region 4 clergy who gather for prayer, study and mutual support, and provides training for congregational leaders to understand the needs and resources of their congregations

Ghana Partnership

A partnership between the Presbytery of Chicago, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and the Ga Presbytery of Ghana for sharing, respect, understanding and shared mission projects.

God's New Thing on the Northwest Side

Create a new fellowship of believers on the northwest side of Chicago, design a plan for the merger of four congregations, and articulate the vision and mission of the new merged fellowship and their purposes.

Hispanic Bible Study for 2008 and 2009

Links the outreach, education and mentoring program of local Spanish speaking congregations with the work of Chicago Cook County Jail chaplains, providing Bible training, resources for chaplains, and links between partner congregations and ex-offenders

Hispanic Ministries in Chicago Presbytery

Four Hispanic/Latino ministries coming together to explore and identify ways to strengthen their congregational ministries through study, leadership training, resource development, sharing, worship and fellowship.

Multicultural Church Ministry Team

Support and development for multicultural congregations; creating opportunities to practice mutuality and inclusion, experience multicultural worship, provide opportunity for youth multicultural interaction, and celebrate the multicultural church.

Campus Ministry Covenants

Agape House at the University of Illinois at Chicago

A protestant ministry serving students at UIC, providing moral, spiritual, pastoral and supportive presence through worship, group experiences and one-on-ones. Agape House is also a catalyst for interdenominational, interfaith, multicultural, multiracial and intra-religious dialogue and action for promoting equity, justice and peace.

United Christian Ministry at Northwestern University

A Protestant ministry serving students at Northwestern University, addressing young adult leadership, study of Christian faith, mentoring, justice and witness so the students can find "a home away from home", expressed through a genuine church community on campus.

Presbyterian Camp at Saugatuck

Provides youth and family camping activities for congregations and their Presbyterian groups.

Recognition Covenants Activated

Recognition covenants advance the vision and mission directions of the Presbytery and are activated by Mission Priority Leadership Teams.

Mission Council 8

Fourteen churches engaged in hands-on-mission endeavor: Sponsors a youth camp and two adult retreats at Saugatuck, supports Jones Memorial Community Center, Hearts in Motion Guatemala, and mission in Eastern Kentucky. Also supports congregations and communities through worship, fellowship and prayer.

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

Building an inclusive, caring committee of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) covenant partners; supports the mission of PC (USA) through celebration offerings, serves area neighborhood houses, and supports the work of local Presbyterian Women.



Presbytery of Chicago

Prepared
by
The Stewardship and Financial Development Work Group
of
The Presbytery of Chicago

