

A STRATEGIC PLAN for NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND PRESBYTERY

“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:38)

Our History and Opportunity

Our past and present context

For more than two centuries the church in our region has been increasingly weakened in doctrine and practice, but in the last fifty years the Lord has been replanting seeds of life.

Fifty years ago, Presbyterianism was almost entirely absent from Northern New England. Since that time several churches have been planted as part of an increase in the broader evangelical presence here. At this same time, so many who name the name of Christ have embraced a very weak spirituality, creating a confusing and cloudy environment for the proclamation of the gospel and contributing to the decay of the world around us.

The challenges have not only been from outside error and immorality. There have also been troubling experiences of division and discouragement in all of our congregations. Ministerial isolation has also resulted in significant mission setbacks. Through these times of trial the Lord has granted a spirit of unity to our Presbytery. We have together been humbled, and are all the more committed to Christ, His gospel, the church, the ordinary means of grace, the mission of the Lord here in evangelism and service, and Christian fruitfulness to the world.

“Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God *is not helpless among the ruins*. Our broken lives are not lost or useless. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love.”

— Eric Liddell

Statement of Mission

Our shared goal

To gather and perfect the saints throughout Northern New England.

Our Presbytery seeks to work with all Christians in following God's plan for His household. It is our settled conviction that we exist to proclaim the praises of Christ. The Lord has given to His church the ministry of word, sacrament, and prayer for the gathering and perfecting of his people from now until our He returns (WCF 25-3). By His presence and Spirit, He makes these simple things powerful for His own wonderful purposes. We trust Him to bring a new light, love, and order to this place for the glory of His own name, and we dedicate our lives to His service in the fulfilling of this mission.

Vision Statement

Our picture of the desired future

To see the whole church in this region revived in God's truth, and to be a shining light of Christian faith working itself out through love.

We plan to be involved in continuous church planting. Specifically, the Presbytery seeks to establish biblically healthy churches within 30 minutes of every doorstep in our tri-state region. It is our hope that these churches and ministers will be most effective if they are able to work in close proximity.

Our current churches should become more firmly established within their communities. This means the

“Instead of destroying the arts and sciences or being indifferent to them, let us cultivate them with all the enthusiasm of the veriest humanist, but at the same time consecrate them to the service of our God. Instead of obliterating the distinction between the Kingdom and the world, or on the other hand withdrawing from the world into a sort of modernized intellectual monasticism, let us go joyfully, enthusiastically to make the world subject to God ...”

— J. Gresham Machen

provisions of trained elders and deacons, permanent facilities for ministry, and active worshipping congregations urging others to see the truth of Jesus Christ, experience worship, and thus taste and see that the Lord is good.

The mission that the Lord has given us requires not only strong PCA churches, but also new life in other congregations who are longing for a word of truth. Therefore, we hope to see PCA ministers serve in many congregational churches, lovingly and courageously working for blessing in places where there may have been very little biblical ministry for many years.

Strategic Plan

How we will get there

Together we are trusting God to hear our prayers and to assist us in building biblically healthy churches—establishing new ones, strengthening existing ones, and making use of various programs to aid in both.

- (1) Recognizing God’s sovereignty in all of our plans, we must continue to *pray*.
- (2) We must act on our faith and diligently recruit and train up laborers through the following channels:
 - a. Missions teams
 - b. Interns
 - c. Apprentices
 - d. Homegrown missionaries.
- (3) Plant new churches.
- (4) Strengthen current leaders/congregations.
 - a. Intentional Evangelism
 - b. Training (On-going NNE Network, Lamp, New England Center for Expository Preaching)
 - c. Buildings
 - d. Mercy Ministry (ESL, widows, orphans, crisis pregnancy centers, food, and housing).
- (5) Partner with college ministries to reach students and train next generation of pastors/church planters.
- (6) Establish a Building Assistance Fund for NNEP churches.

Comparison		
	Northern New England	Mississippi
Population	3.1 million	2.9 million
PCA churches	1 presbytery (3 states)	4 presbyteries
	7 churches	118 churches
	3 mission works	many missions

Financial Plan

Estimated resources needed

Making good use of resources for the growth of Christ’s church in Northern New England.

Ten Year Figures

\$250,000	Five apprenticeships (each receives \$50,000 towards three years of support; in addition, Timothy Funds from MNA - \$15,000/apprentice – could be available; apprentices raise remaining funds).
\$80,000	Recruitment of laborers (promotional materials, travel, expenses)
\$30,000	Three summer interns annually for 10 years (\$1,000/intern; interns raise remaining funds).
\$150,000	One-year interns (one a year for the first five years; two a year the second five years; \$10,000/intern; interns raise remaining funds).
\$600,000	Three strategic church plants (year 1-3 = \$50K/yr, year 4-5 = \$25K/yr.); estimated cost for each = \$600,000; presbytery will contribute 1/3, core group 1/3, and the planting team 1/3.
\$400,000	Church Development and Revitalization (Network, conferences, materials).
<u>\$2 million</u>	Revolving fund towards the purchase of property or buildings or the construction of facilities.

TOTAL = \$3,510,000

\$555,000 contributed by the NNEP over 10 years
\$3 million raised from outside NNEP

For more information contact:

Doug Warren *cell phone* (207) 653-3754 *email* Doug.Warren@MainePCA.org

Jason Wakefield *cell phone* (603) 305-7339 *email* Jason@NashuaPCA.org