



PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Synod of Mid Atlantic Men's Council

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Synod of The Mid Atlantic - Men's Council – President's 2009 Annual Report

As President of the Synod of Mid Atlantic Men's Council, it is my pleasure to submit this Men's Council 2009 Annual Report. This is the first year that annual reports have been required by Council officers and Presbyterian Representatives for distribution to all Synod Men..

The heart and soul of my two year agenda as Men's Council President has been and is to bring recognition to the Synod Men that the Men's Council does exist and demonstrate the value that we can bring to all. In support of this agenda, we have been developing fresh new processes and procedures that offer real value to Synod Men and Men's Ministry groups within our Synod. Over the past year, we have thoroughly reviewed The Role and Responsibility of each member of the Synod Men's Council and have enhanced and improved every members Role and added the new Role of Vice President/President Elect. All of our work that was completed by midyear, and required Bylaw changes, was approved by Council in June 2009 and ratified by Presbyterian Men in July 2009. The approval gave us renewed encouragement to continue to drive on with our Council Agenda. Following are some additional Synod Men's Council highlights of 2009.

Web site upgrade: Part and parcel of our agenda is to overhaul our existing internet page. We want to offer Synod men access the tools they need to help them as individuals or as men's groups to enhance, improve and grow in their spirituality. The Men's Council agreed in December to switch our web host to

FaithWebsite.com. This change will give the same kind of flexibility and outreach that most of the premiere Men's Ministry sites offer today. Our renewed web site will open new doors that were not available to us in the past. Our web upgrade Task Team is working to bring the new site on line in January 2010.

Wilderness Ministry: The Men's Council has been looking at ways to address the spiritual needs of younger men within the Synod. We looked at starting a Wilderness Ministry. A new ministry that would appeal to younger men that offers spiritual enrichment blended with an outdoor adventure experience. We have come to the conclusion that for us to startup our Wilderness ministry would overwhelm our resources. Therefore, we have decided to search for the best of the best young men ministries that already exist and develop a partnership with them. In the short term, we will add Internet reference links to our new web page. The long term goal is still to establish our own Wilderness Ministry.

Kenya Mission Outreach: For the first time ever, the Synod Men's Council will lead a team of Synod Men on a hands-on International mission. We will travel to Kenya, Africa for the purpose of building a chapel and planting 1000 trees. We need volunteers to join the Team and your spiritual and financial support.

Recognition of past presidents: As part of the Council's agenda to bring recognition of the Councils existence and reflect on its past, we will develop a plaque showing the names and dates of service of Council Presidents both past and present. The plaque will be updated as future Presidents are elected. Fred Holbrook has given us permission to display the plaque at Massanetta Springs Conference Center.

New incentive for first time Conference attendees: The Council has been searching for ways to encourage new attendees to attend our Synod Men's Annual Conference at Massanetta Springs. In 2010 we will offer a "**Each One Bring One**" option. That is, a man bringing a first time attendee will be given a reduced rate and the first time attendee will be given the same reduced rate. The Annual Conference registration brochure, which is due out in early 2010, will have more information.

New ways to financially support men's Council: The Men's Council relies on the Annual Synod Men's Conference for our operating income. In recent years low attendance has had a detrimental impact on our income. We are asking all men within the Synod to consider adding us to their mission contribution list. This is part and parcel to our agenda to demonstrate the value that the Council can bring to men's ministry groups.

Newsletter: We will be developing a Synod of Mid Atlantic Men's Newsletter that will be published on our new web page. We are looking for an editor to help us with this endeavor. If you are interested, please contact me.

The Men's Council Nominating Committee is searching for candidates for Council officers and Presbytery Representatives. Offices that need to be filled are as follows: President; Vice President/President Elect; Director of Mission; Director of Membership; Treasurer; NPMM Representative. We also need to fill Presbyterian Representative vacancies: Abington; Coastal; National Capital; New Castle; New Hope; Salem. Contact Nominating Committee Chairman, Jay Griles grilesfamily@tds.net if you want to volunteer for a vacant as a candidate or nominate a candidate for one of the offices noted.

We need your continued support and encouragement to continue this exciting journey to enable us to reach out to all men in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In Jesus Christ,

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