

## MINISTRY COUNCIL <http://epcmc.org>

The work of the Ministry Council is and will be significantly strengthened by individuals with prior/current experience on Ministry Teams or in the absence of experience on Ministry Team(s), experience at middle and higher judicatory programming levels that directly impacted program ministries such as the General Assembly Council (GAC), the predecessor to the Ministry Council. It is very important for Council members to understand and be fully committed to servant-empowered leadership to sustain a unified approach to ministry. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities in four particular areas would be particularly beneficial:

- ***Visioning*** – The Ministry Council identifies and implements the Council’s vision for ministry across four distinct Ministry Teams. Creative thinkers and those with a passion for moving into “new frontiers” are vital to the work of the Ministry Council to compliment those currently on the Council who have a deep appreciation of CP history and tradition. Of particular benefit are those who can frame ways to minister to the growing segment of “NONES” <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2013/01/14/169164840/losing-our-religion-the-growth-of-the-nones>.
- ***Strategic Planning*** – The Ministry Council provides primary long and short-range program planning, striving to ensure all segments work consistently on a common mission and that redundancies and gaps in the Ministry Council’s ministry are minimized. Particularly helpful are results-oriented professionals with proven success as agents of change within their community, church and/or presbytery.
- ***Leader Development*** – Programs to benefit the whole Church must and will concentrate on leadership development, nurturing new leaders and expanding ways of involving those who have left the Church, those who have deferred leadership to others, and to the aforementioned “NONES”. Those highly regarded by youth and young adults in the CP Church are a strong asset to the Ministry Council. Those with broad networks, who possess understanding and a gift for recruiting and encouraging, are especially helpful to the Ministry Council, as are those who can work easily with all cultures, all ages and all types of people with various viewpoints. There exists within the denomination a wide spectrum of theological perspectives; we seek to ensure representation from individuals across this spectrum.
- ***Fund Development*** – Individuals with professional experience that extends beyond grant writing.

### **Specific Skills and Expertise:**

***Communication Skills*** – Effective Council members are conduits of information, both *sharing with* and *gathering from* congregations, presbytery, synod and all related groups to support the Council and further the work of the Church. Effective Council members must be skilled and comfortable in using innovative communication technology to include but not limited to email, social media and video conferencing.

***Cross-Cultural experience*** – Understanding the cultural and global diversity of the Church – Effective Council members demonstrate experience and willingness to work with people of other cultures and languages and possess sensitivity to working with persons of varied cultures and socio-economic realities.

## **Time Requirement:**

- Elected members annually sign a Covenant that outlines their responsibilities (<http://cpcmc.org/about-us/ministry-council/ministry-council-covenant/>)
- The average time commitment is eight hours per month including preparation for and attendance at meetings. Additional information related to serving on the Council may be found at <http://cpcmc.org/about-us/ministry-council/interested-in-joining-the-ministry-council/>

## **Financial Support:**

- Ministry Council members commit to be proactive advocates for and enthusiastic supporters of Our United Outreach within their respective congregation, presbytery and synod. While General Assembly does not currently require individuals serving on denominational boards to represent congregations that are faithful supporters of Our United Outreach, it is the consensus of Ministry Council that persons serving on denominational boards should model consistent, faithful support of Our United Outreach.
- Ministry Council members make personal financial contributions to the Ministry Council. These gifts include but are not limited to: donating back reimbursed travel expenses, honorariums, and gifts-in-kind.

It may be helpful to note the current formula for scheduled meetings as well as a proposal to reduce the number of future meetings.

Currently, there are three Ministry Council meetings during the calendar year:

- the last full weekend (**FRI AND SAT**) in January;
- the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of April (**FRI AND SAT**) unless it coincides with Easter; and
- the last full weekend in August (**SAT AND SUN**).

**In June 2016, the Ministry Council will recommend to General Assembly that the Ministry Council move to meeting twice a year beginning in 2017.** While the location of future Ministry Council meetings will probably be at/near the Denominational Center in Cordova/Memphis, dates are unknown. Care is taken to try to minimize conflict with other meeting dates such as meetings of presbytery, synod, etc.