

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

— Ephesians 1:8b-10, NIV

The mainline church is in crisis. We have turned our eyes inward and have lost the central focus of the New Testament church: its apostolic calling to bear witness to Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. We live in a time when our own culture is a mission field, and we acknowledge that maintaining old institutions and systems leads neither to renewal nor to faithfulness in God's mission.

The mandate of the Gospel and the needs of the world are urgent.

We confess that the living and reigning Lord Jesus Christ alone is the hope of the world.

We believe that the Father sent the Son into the world out of love (John 3:16) and that the church is not an end in itself but a gift given to the world in order that all may believe (John 17:21).

We believe Christ is calling us to recommit ourselves to the authority of Holy Scripture and to the faithful summaries of biblical teaching found in the historic Reformed confessions.

We believe Christ is calling us, as covenantal people, to be transformed by his indwelling Holy Spirit and to be empowered by the Spirit for faithful witness.

We believe Christ is calling us to move beyond confidence in our own capacity and culture to a new interdependence with others in the global Body of Christ.

We believe Christ is calling for significant transformation of our congregations, both in who we are and what we do, as we engage in God's missional purpose for the church.

We believe it is time to gather anew around God's mission to the world.

Therefore, in dependence upon the grace of God, we covenant with one another, and with others who share these convictions and would join us in these commitments:

- To commit to a common discipline of prayer, study and discernment as we address the challenges of this time and seek to live faithfully for Christ in our communities and world;**
- To invite global partners into this fellowship, at all of its levels, developing relationships that allow for mutual blessing, that we may become a truly global fellowship. We recognize both that we have gifts to share but also that we need to receive the leadership, missionaries and example of the global church. We also commit to reaching out to members of other communions in North America, especially those whose faith is consonant with the Reformed confessional heritage, that we may join together in God's mission to the world;**
- To build relationships of mutual support and accountability—locally, nationally, and internationally—as we discern our gifts and the gifts of the communities in which we worship, so that we may discover how God would have us use these gifts in living out the church's missional purpose;**
- To heed God's voice through the global church and repent where we have not been faithful to His Word, especially with regard to wealth and power, ethnic and racial reconciliation, human sexuality and public witness;**
- To invest our financial resources only in those local and global mission efforts that we believe are biblically faithful and accountable, within the Presbyterian family and through other partnerships into which the Lord calls us;**
- To use existing and emerging technologies to share resources and best practices in ways that will help congregations train leaders for effective service and equip the saints for the work of ministry.**

PRESBYTERIAN GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP—COVENANT 2008

We join in this Covenant joyfully, humbly and prayerfully, confessing our own sinfulness, our dependence upon the grace of God, and our willingness to augment this covenant as we deepen our relationships with the global church.

May we be transformed by God's Spirit into the likeness of Jesus Christ, so that we can faithfully participate in God's mission throughout the world, to the glory of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

_____ I (we) have signed this covenant in affirmation of the theological vision and purpose of PGF.

_____ In light of this vision and purpose, I (we) commit to:

- Engage in a program of regular study in order to learn what it means to be missional.
- Undertake intentional activities each week that will help me to see the world from God's perspective.
- Meet regularly with at least two other people to explore what it means to participate in God's mission.
- Work to shape the missional identity of my own family and congregation.

For individuals and families:

Name

Date

Address/Phone

Email

Your Congregation/Organization

If this is an official action of a congregation's Session or Board, please complete the section below:

Name of Congregation

Date

Address/Phone

Email

Signature of Pastor, Clerk of Session, or Board Chair

Please Print Name

Please make a copy of this completed form and send it by email or regular mail to:

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