



Professional Church Leadership

Chair: Marcia Clark Myers (PCUSA)
Vice Chair: Richard Sparrow (UCC)

Staff: Garland F. Pierce

Program Mission/Purpose:

PCL has as its focus the concern of the Church for its professional leadership, both lay and ordained. PCL is a colleague group whose purpose is to encourage and to implement ecumenical efforts in the areas of enlistment, theological and professional training, career-span education, career assessment and planning, placement and deployment, specialized ministries, bi-occupational careers, and salary support, and to clarify the issues and unique opportunities with special attention to white women and racial ethnic women and men in ministry that emerge in relation to these areas of concern.

PCL is also an advocate for issues related to women and racial and ethnic leaders in ministry, as well as other areas where it feels the Church should give special attention to the support needs of its professional leadership.

PCL affirms three fundamental purposes for gathering:

1. For collegial sharing and networking about issues related to church leadership;
2. For continuing education and focused exploration of significant issues facing the church's leaders;
3. For coordinated programmatic effort to address common issues.

Programmatic collaboration would focus ordinarily on issues of compelling significance that impact all or most PCL communions. PCL itself would determine that it has energy and desire to undertake such collaborative programming.

Membership:

Offices within NCCC member communions and related denominations whose work is focused on professional church leadership development and that participate in and fund PCL may designate up to two (2) persons to membership on Professional Church Leadership. Non-member denominations may be invited by the Executive Committee to send one (1) representative to PCL.

Activities:

For the past several years, PCL has been especially interested in "healthy ministry" – the physical, spiritual, and vocational health of clergy, the formation of new ministers able to pastor effectively in the 21st century, and healthy relationships between pastor and congregations. Much of our denominational sharing of ideas and resources has been in this area and beneficial to all who have participated.



PCL was instrumental in the establishment of Career Development Centers in the 1960s – now known as Ministry Development Centers, spread across the US. The centers provide assessment and resources for clergy and other church workers, denominational leadership, and local churches. Learn more at ministrydevelopment.org. During 2006, PCL has worked closely with the Ministry Development Council to evaluate the work of the centers relative to the needs of the denominations and some steps have been taken to strengthen that important ministry.

January 17-19, 2007 PCL will meet jointly in Louisville, Kentucky with the Denominational Staff for Theological Education and Candidacy, and the Ministry Development Council. In addition to denominational sharing and synergistic conversation, the groups will be addressed by Dr. Daniel Aleshire, from the Association of Theological Schools.

Membership:

Dick Bruesehoff	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Steven Chambers	United Church of Canada
Norma F. Coleman	Christian Reformed Church in NA
Lynne A. Grifo	Episcopal Church
Mary Glenn Hadley	Friend United Meeting
Mary Jo Flory-Steury	Church of the Brethren
Terry Hamrick	Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Bruce M. Hartung	Lutheran Church
Kate Harvey	American Baptist Church in USA
Melford Bud Hollad	Episcopal Church
Robert F. Kohler	United Methodist Church
Dick Sparrow	United Church of Christ
Marcia Clark Meyers	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Sharon Rubey	United Methodist Church
Susah Shaffer	Presbyterian Church in Canada
Warren Lynn	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Mary Ann Moman	United Methodist Church
R. Kenneth Ostermiller	United Church of Christ
David L. Wickmann	Moravian Church