

Appendix D

Presbytery of Redstone Mission Strategy 1999-2004

Theological Statement

Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, the hope for a world in moral, spiritual, economic and institutional drift and uncertainty.

We, the churches of the Presbytery of Redstone, are moved by God to affirm the good news of Jesus Christ, and declare that God has *claimed* us through the life, death and resurrection of God's son.

Claimed as God's own, we are *called* to serve others just as Christ has served us. Gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to do the same works of Jesus while we build homes, raise families, and work and live in our communities and world.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit has *commissioned* the churches of Redstone to take the good news of Jesus to all people, that everyone may come to know the love of God and experience the life changing power and blessings of the Holy Spirit in this age and the age to come.

Vision Statement

Redstone Presbyterians: *Claimed* by God, *Called* by Christ, *Commissioned* by the Spirit

Mission Statement

The churches and minister members of Redstone Presbytery seek to respond to the call of God in Christ Jesus. A mission and governing unit of the Presbytery Church (USA), we support, guide and empower our churches and ministers to:

- work together to discover our gifts;
- nurture and care for each other;
- equip people for ministry;
- make connections with each other;
- provide occasions for worship; and
- engage in mission, evangelism, outreach peacemaking and justice, so that;
- through all these actions, we may encounter God and be empowered to be Christ's disciples at home and around the world.

Priorities for Our Mission & Ministry

****Please note: These priorities are of equal importance****

Priority I – to provide proactively for the resourcing of congregations, and the development of networking between and among congregations.

- 1) **Objective:** Encourage each congregation to work with another Redstone congregation on one mission or ministry project during a calendar year.
 - a) **Action Step:** The Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming, in consultation with the Mission Committee, will develop a list of particular possible mission/ministry projects, both a dream list and a list of those projects already up and running – including the identification of the appropriate contact people for each project; this list will become part of an

informational article written by this associate and published in each Presbytery newsletter, or as a written report to Presbytery.

- b) Action Step: The Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming will initiate partnerships between/among churches by working with persons who chair the district Congregational Development and Resource Committees to develop at least one prototype partnership in each of the four districts. These prototype partnerships will then become the models for other potential partnerships either in their respective districts or in another district. The Associate will provide descriptions of projects currently being carried out including an explanation of how they are working as a “seed-planting” vehicle to inspire ideas and interest in others.
- 2) Objective: Visit congregations to discover resources needed for ministry and mission.
- a) Action Step: The Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming will work with the district Congregational and Resource Committees to initiate meetings with each of the congregations in the Presbytery over a period of two years from the inception of this Mission Strategy. These meetings will serve a two-fold purpose, in that, they will aid in the development of partnerships, and they will serve as a forum for determining appropriate resourcing for programming.
 - b) Action Step: The Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming and the district Congregational Development and Resource Committees will coordinate their work so that recommendations for resourcing can be facilitated through the district Congregational Development and Resource Committee in which each church is located. The emphasis in meeting this requirement will be on networking the congregations and groups in each District and the Presbytery.
- 3) Objective: Develop a means for providing resources needed for ministry and mission.
- a) Action Step: The Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming will provide an updated resource catalogue to all the congregations no later than the stated meeting of Presbytery held in March of each year. However, complete catalogues will only be provided once every four years, with addenda being provided in each intervening year.
 - b) Action Step: The Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming, in collaboration with other Presbytery staff, will work with each of the 4 districts to develop events (held at least annually), sponsored by the Presbytery, related to its mission and ministry.

Priority II - to provide proactively for the growth of servant ministries, both local and global, in order to be true to our mission as Christ’s disciples, and to foster a sense of shalom, wholeness, and mutuality.

- 1) Objective: To educate the churches in Redstone Presbytery, through a variety of ways, to increase an awareness of and participation in mission and service projects.

- a) Action Step: The Mission Committee will sponsor an educational mission event each year in which missionaries (or others engaged in mission work) teach/train volunteers from this Presbytery in some aspect of mission work.
- 2) Objective: To develop intentional relationships with other Christians to broaden our mutual experience of God's community of faith as the "body of Christ."
 - a) Action Step: The Mission Committee and the Presbytery Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming will prepare a proposal to initiate a new mission/ministry partnership with at least one other Reformed entity by the end of the year 2000.

Priority III – to proactively provide for the spiritual, social, and professional support of ministers, and the mutual support of commissioned lay pastors, and their families.

- 1) Objective: To provide opportunities for pastoral care, professional, and social interaction for ministers, commissioned lay pastors, and their families.
 - a) Action Step: The Associate for Pastoral Care will initiate visits with each one of the Presbytery's ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors, and their families, by the end of his/her first six months of work. These visits shall be for the purpose of establishing a relationship of trust, as an indicator of his/her commitment to effective pastoral care, and as a way of determining how to initiate opportunities for professional and social interaction.
 - b) Action Step: The Associate for Pastoral Care, in collaboration with the appropriate committees/units of the presbytery, shall establish a plan for on-going pastoral care among the ministers and commissioned lay pastors, and their families.
 - c) Action Step: The Associate for Pastoral Care, in collaboration with the appropriate committees/units of the presbytery, shall provide for formal opportunities for the ministers and commissioned lay pastors to discuss issues of concern to our common ministry.
 - d) Action Step: The Associate for Pastoral Care, in collaboration with the appropriate committees/units of the presbytery, shall develop a plan for social events which will gather ministers and commissioned lay pastors, and their spouses and families, together for the purpose of getting to know each other.
- 2) Objective: To provide opportunities for continuing education, including spiritual growth, for ministers and commissioned lay pastors of Redstone Presbytery.
 - a) Action Step: Each year the Associate for Pastoral Care will work in coordination with the Associate for Christian Education and Congregational Programming to initiate an educational presbytery-wide conference in a particular area of ministry which has arisen as a result of his/her conversations with the pastors in the presbytery.
 - b) Action Step: The Associate for Pastoral Care, in collaboration with the appropriate committees/units of the presbytery, shall develop a plan for conferences for theological reflection on the sciences, arts, and humanities with

qualified persons in those disciplines who have shown an ability to reflect theologically on their discipline.

- c) Action Step: Beginning no later than the year 2001, the Associate for Pastoral Care will develop plans for an annual clergy/spouse retreat for pastors and commissioned lay pastors in Redstone Presbytery.

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