

# PRESSING ONWARD

At its May 2008 stated meeting Charleston Atlantic Presbytery approved the following goals for the next five years. Below is our progress as of August 31, 2011.

## Priority #1 Building Unity within the Diversity of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery will

- 1.1 Ask the congregations of Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery to pray for one another on a weekly basis, highlighting one congregation during Sunday morning worship, rotating through all the member churches each year. **DONE. NEED TO RE-EMPHASIZE**
- 1.2 Hold a presbytery-wide celebration in years that the General Assembly does not meet. **2009 – WADE IN THE WATER AT EDISTO, 2011 VISIT BY PC(USA) MODERATOR**
- 1.3 Include a time for directed conversation among small groups, whenever facilities permit, at each stated meeting of presbytery. **Doing so on a semi-regular basis. Did so most recently at May 2011 stated meeting.**
- 1.4 Seek to better connect and celebrate members of presbytery and ministry leaders. **IN PROGRESS**
- 1.5 Facilitate partnerships (particularly large congregations with small congregations) in terms of sharing staff, doing mission projects, and holding educational events. **IN PROGRESS**
- 1.6 Create a worship team to ensure that presbytery meetings will be held in the context of worship and celebration in an atmosphere of both reverence and joy.
- 1.7 Encourage congregations to advertise their Sunday evening or other special worship services through the CHAT line, inviting other Charleston Atlantic congregations to join them. **IN PROGRESS. Need to re-emphasize.**
- 1.8 Make the presbytery office available to sessions for leadership retreats or other congregational activities. **DONE. Need to re-emphasize.**

The Council, presbytery staff, and Committee on Ministry are tasked to implement these goals.

## Priority # 2 Communication

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery will continue to improve its communication among our congregations and between the presbytery and its member sessions by:

- 2.1 Developing a brochure describing the organization, work, and mission of the presbytery and distributing it to all new leaders in the presbytery. **Started but ball has been dropped due to staff cuts.**
- 2.2 Keeping current the information on the website. **IN PROGRESS**
- 2.3 Implementing an orientation program for new pastors and educators. **DONE SPORADICALLY**
- 2.4 Distributing a synopsis of each meeting of presbytery to the congregations and posting it on the web site. **DONE SPORADICALLY**
- 2.5 Putting the handbook for each meeting of presbytery online for commissioners to download. **DONE**
- 2.6 Distributing Minutes for Mission about presbytery units/committee work for use by congregations. **DONE SPORADICALLY**
- 2.7 Asking pastors and educators to encourage ruling elders on rotation to volunteer for presbytery units. **IN PROGRESS. Need to re-emphasize.**
- 2.8 Asking congregations to share celebratory news about their congregation with members with the presbytery at presbytery meetings, through the CHAT line, and on the presbytery website. **IN PROGRESS**
- 2.9 Posting the Manual of Administrative Operations on the web site. **DONE**
- 2.10 Posting Nominating Committee information on the web site. **DONE**
- 2.11 Accomplishing registration for meetings of presbytery via the web site. **DONE**

The presbytery staff, recording clerk, Nominating Committee, and Worship Team are tasked to accomplish these goals.

### **Priority # 3 New Congregation Development**

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery will:

- 3.1 Implement new and creative models of planting new congregations. **IN PROGRESS**
- 3.2 Initiate a predominantly African-American NCD or transformation of an existing African American congregation. **IN PROGRESS**
- 3.2 Initiate new immigrant ministries, fellowships, and congregations. **IN PROGRESS**
- 3.4 Develop a strategy to reach young adults (18-35 year olds). **NEW MODES OF CAMPUS MINISTRY ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED**
- 3.5 Educate our churches on the challenges of starting new congregations.

The Congregational Development Unit is tasked to evaluate its work and to develop a plan to implement these goals.

### **Priority # 4 Facilitate Partnerships in Cooperative Mission**

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery will identify and implement relevant models of doing mission by:

- 4.1 Encouraging multi-congregational international efforts. **HAITI MISSION TRIPS, DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR HAITI, HAITI WOMENS MICRO FINANCE PROGRAM**
- 4.2 Encouraging multi-congregational local efforts. **HANDS OF CHRIST**
- 4.3 Providing for a presbytery-wide youth mission experience. **BETHELWOODS-PRESBYTERY YOUTH MISSION TRIP, JULY 11-AUGUST 7, 2011**
- 4.4 Evaluating all of our mission programs, recognizing that some of our current projects may have to seek other sources of funding. **IN PROGRESS**

The Church and Society Unit is tasked to evaluate its work and to develop a plan to accomplish these goals.