

Covenant
between
The Synod of Living Waters
and
The Coalition for Appalachian Ministry
2008

History of Mutual Commitment

The presbyteries, synods and General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the former Presbyterian Church U.S. (PCUS), and the former United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA), and the Classes Lake Erie and General Synod of the Reformed Church in America were in mission together in Appalachia from November 1964 through March 1974 as partners in the Presbyterian Appalachian Council. (PAC)

These same bodies were instrumental in founding the Coalition for Appalachian Ministry (CAM) in March 1974. When the PCUS and the UPCUSA established regional synods the synods assumed primary responsibility for the support of the Coalition for Appalachian Ministry and reaffirmed their commitment by designating CAM as one of their agents in Appalachia for the initiation, validation, oversight and evaluation of nationally funded projects. In the 1980s The Christian Reformed Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America became members of CAM. In 1985 these denominations adopted a common Mission Strategy for Appalachia document with CAM as the agent through which they worked cooperatively.

The Coalition for Appalachian Ministry represents a unique effort through which the major Presbyterian and Reformed bodies in the United States bring together their resources for mission with the people of Appalachia. In recent years there have been major changes in the way congregations provide mission support. Synods no longer have access to mission funds to provide support for Appalachian Ministry in the extent that was possible when CAM and its predecessor PAC were founded. CAM continues to serve as an agent for its member groups in Appalachia but now must seek support from other sources. CAM has developed a structure which provides for continuing partnership with the synods and also seeks partnerships with presbyteries, congregations and individuals. CAM's Mission Statement is attached to this covenant.

Commitments of the Synod

Representation

The Synod will be represented in two ways:

1. Three persons will be elected to the CAM Board by the Synod Assembly for terms determined by that body.
2. A synod staff person or designee will attend one CAM meeting a year to reinforce to reinforce the partnership.
3. The synod will pay the expenses of its representatives who attend CAM meetings.

Communication

Representatives from the synod will report regularly to the Synod Assembly and other related groups on the plans and activities of CAM and mission concerns in Appalachia. In addition the synod will share the information through its communication processes.

Financial Support

As a partner in CAM, the synod will provide financial support in an amount to be determined annually by the Synod Assembly. The synod will assist CAM in finding other sources of financial support.

Commitments of the Coalition for Appalachian Ministry

Communication

1. CAM will provide annual reports for the Synod Assembly as well as copies of its financial reviews in a format and on a schedule determined by the Synod.
2. CAM will provide for the synod and interested individuals and congregations information about its ministries and about Appalachia and volunteer opportunities.
3. CAM will help to inform the synod, presbyteries and congregations about the work of the other denominations in the area served by those bodies.

Education

The Coalition for Appalachian Ministry will provide educational events and other opportunities for people in the synod’s congregations and presbyteries to learn more about the Appalachian Region and its particular concerns and issues.

Finances

CAM will provide the synod with financial reports when requested and will abide by the synod’s financial policies.

Review

This covenant may be reviewed by mutual agreement of the Synod of Living Waters and the Coalition for Appalachian Ministry at any time. It will continue in effect for five years from the date of signing by the Synod or until either part requests a renewal or revision.

Mike Sharpe, Board Chair Date 10/14/08
 Board Chairperson, Coalition for Appalachian Ministry

[Signature] Date 1/30/09
 Synod Official, Synod of Living Waters

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Coalition for Appalachian Ministry is to make a positive impact wherever Reformed tradition and Appalachian culture come together, by networking with church and community, to provide educational and service opportunities.

We affirm with hope, joy and trust that Appalachia belongs to the loving God whom we know in Christ. His presence is made visible through those local and regional communities of faith when they –

- Stand with those pushed to the margins of society
- Assist people as they develop economic independence
- Care for creation.

CAM connects

- Local stories with a global audience
- Oral tradition with internet technology
- Local faces with national issues
- Dignity with justice and hopelessness with vision
- Indigenous human needs with savvy advocates in the center of power
- Experience and information with God's passion for people
- The faces of humanity with Christ's command to be servants
- Volunteers with mission service projects and first hand experiences
- Service projects with willing hands and skilled labor
- Home-based crafters with a regional fair-market outlet
- Five Reformed denominations and dozens of regional judicatories with opportunities for common mission
- Hundreds of congregations and ministries across thirteen states with a common cause
- Denominational funding programs with local project support and evaluation
- Church pastors with the culture, history and social structures of Appalachia
- Church people with the vitality of ministry in small membership churches