

## THE PC(USA) AT A GLANCE

### A. Our Birth: Theology and Ecclesiology

1. 1706 [300 years]
2. Adopting Act (1729)
  - a. Freedom of Conscience
  - b. Mutual Forbearance
3. Leadership
  - a. Elders
  - b. Deacons
  - c. Pastors
4. Governance
  - a. Councils (Session, Presbytery, General Assembly)
5. Spiritual
  - a. Scriptural basis [one body many parts]; Ephesians; each part doing its job

### B. Way of doing Theology

1. Faith seeking understanding
  - a. Intellect is crucial gift God has blessed us with; we are to use it
2. Reformed and always reforming
  - a. We know that human sin requires us to always examine our beliefs
3. Whole of Scripture
  - a. Gospels, prophets, Pentateuch, epistles, etc.
4. Dissent and debate allowed/encouraged
5. Christ alone lord of the conscience [wide variety of theology, respect of others]
6. Confessions

### C. The heart of what it means to be Presbyterian

1. Grace of Jesus Christ
2. Sovereignty and Love of God
3. Communion of Holy Spirit

### D. Commitment to Community: Connectional nature of church

1. Sister Congregations
  - a. Our faithful family doing God's work on our behalf and in cooperation
  - b. Presbytery supports regional ministry cooperation
    - i. Trains pastors
      - a) Scott Neely, Ridgley Beckett, Robert Bannan, Ginger Shuler, Landon Hammett, Jason Moore
    - ii. Pastoral Support/New pastor initiatives
    - iii. Congregational Revitalization
    - iv. New church plant
    - v. Campus Ministry
    - vi. Conflict resolution
    - vii. Camp ministry for youth/evangelism
    - viii. Resource Center

## 2. Our National Church

- a. Office of the General Assembly
- b. Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
- c. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation
- d. Presbyterian Church Foundation
- e. Board of Pensions
- f. Presbyterian Mission Agency
  - i. Compassion, Peace and Justice (e.g. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self Development of People, hunger action resources)
  - ii. Evangelism and Church Growth (e.g. 1001 new worshipping communities, training for evangelism)
  - iii. Mission and Ministry
  - iv. Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW (developing women's leadership gifts, fostering a more inclusive church for racial ethnic women)
  - v. Theology, Worship and Education (Eg. Stewardship resources, 7 seminaries, worship resources, financial aid, church musician support, interfaith resources)
  - vi. Vocation (e.g. equipping pastors, connecting congregations to pastors, Christian Educator support)
  - vii. World Mission (e.g. Iraq, Brazil, Congo, Haiti, DR mission work etc.)
  - viii. Young Adults

## 3. Affiliate Organizations

- a. Thornwell
- b. Presbyterian Homes
- c. Montreat
- d. Presbyterian College
- e. Forman Christian College, Pakistan
- f. Hundreds more in the US and around the world

## 4. Ecumenical – we believe God calls the whole community of Christ to love and work together