

mna
Mission to North America
Presbyterian Church in America

THE PCA
Multiply • UNITY FUND



GROWING INTO GOSPEL MINISTRY

GROWING INTO GOSPEL MINISTRY

THE 2016 PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY established The PCA Unity Fund, to be administered by MNA, to provide seminary or seminary-equivalent tuition for African American and other minority candidates for the gospel ministry, as well as to assist in getting those candidates started in ministry. This issue of *Multiply* tells the stories of several PCA minority pastors. We invite you to come alongside candidates, to mentor and train them into ministry. Please prayerfully consider giving to The PCA Unity Fund. The structure of The Fund is established. Having funds available for distribution awaits the generous contributions of God's people. For more information or to make a contribution, go to:

www.PCAMNA.org/Unity-Fund

When Kevin Smith and his family were living in Philadelphia, he and his wife, Sandra, heard James Boice's sermons on



Irwyn Ince (left) & Kevin Smith (right) with Leon White, a leader at Mt. Zion, in 2003.

the radio. "I didn't know he was part of the PCA – I just knew this man was preaching the Word of God," said Smith. The Smiths began visiting Tenth Presbyterian Church where Boice was senior pastor. "The white upper-middle class congregation was much different from my background, but there the Word was so real," said Smith. When Smith mentioned to Boice that he thought he might be called to ministry, Boice called him to serve as a pastoral intern. There, God blessed his leadership in developing multiethnic ministry. Philadelphia Presbytery covered much of Smith's seminary tuition while he worked and attended seminary at night. Then Potomac Presbytery provided support for Smith to finish



Glenn Dale Elementary School, meeting place for Mt. Zion Covenant.

seminary full-time and begin planting a church. Smith began forming Mt. Zion Covenant Church, a predominantly African American mission church serving Bowie MD, an upscale suburban community east of Washington DC.

Meanwhile, members of a traditional African American Baptist church in Washington DC began suggesting to Irwyn Ince that he might be called by God to ministry. Ince was working as a systems engineer with Motorola. As he became exposed to reformed theology through personal study and through hearing R. C. Sproul on the radio, the Lord gradually brought Ince to the point of believing he was called to serve as a pastor. He enrolled at the DC campus of Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS). A major concern was how to pay the tuition. "My wife, Kim, had left her profession to be a full-time mom. We had three children and my family was dependent on my salary. We took a step of faith that the Lord would provide," said Ince.

Offerings at his church, preaching honoraria and bonuses from work all helped cover tuition while Ince continued working full-time as an engineer. "I knew that I needed



Mt. Zion Covenant kids, circa 2003.

"...God calls us to proclaim the gospel. I pray for the success of this fund, and that the gospel will compel us to be a church that includes all of the people groups of the communities of North America."

-Irwyn Ince, City of Hope



“By supporting these pastors-in-training, we are being true to the great commission. This is kingdom ministry. Lance Lewis, my PCA brother in Sacramento CA, calls it ‘redemptive ethnic unity’ – advancing the gospel and growing God’s family in the way we should grow.”

-Kevin Smith, New City Fellowship Church

mentoring to be in ministry.” Since Smith was the only African American in Potomac Presbytery and Ince was the only African American in most of his RTS classes, other students and faculty naturally suggested that they meet each other. The Ince family joined Mount Zion and Ince began serving as a pastoral intern. A PCA elder in the area led his church to make a ten thousand dollar donation to support his internship. These funds covered the remainder of Ince’s seminary tuition, allowing him to continue his track through seminary without a financial burden while serving the church and continuing to support his family by working full-time.

When Ince was a semester from graduation, Smith accepted a call to a church in the Miami FL area. Soon after, Mt. Zion merged with another nearby mission church, and City of Hope Presbyterian Church was launched in nearby Columbia



Pinelands Presbyterian Church, Miami FL.

MD. While beginning to supply pastoral leadership, Ince continued work part-time as an engineer until the church could fully support him. More than a decade later, he still serves as City of Hope pastor. “Many of us who are here now were a part of this whole process. The men who currently serve as elders at City of Hope were college students at Mt. Zion,” said Ince. After serving in south Florida for 6.5 years, Smith was called as senior pastor to New City Fellowship Church, a robust, multi-ethnic church in urban Chattanooga TN, founded and led by Randy Nabors for 38 years. Nabors now serves as MNA Urban and Mercy Ministries Coordinator.

Several PCA African American pastors already provide the kind of training of the next generation that Smith and Ince received. As funds are given, The PCA Unity Fund will help to expand that. Ince has worked with five ethnic minority pastoral

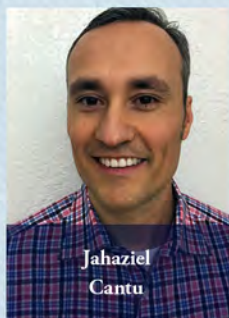
interns at City of Hope over its ten years of life. “What Kevin did for me, I’ve been continuing to do even without the funding. To be able to provide some funding to help them would be amazing,” said Ince. “At the 2016 PCA General Assembly, we committed ourselves, repenting of sins carried out during the Civil Rights time period, to pursue the fruit of repentance in practical ways as God calls us to proclaim the gospel. I pray for the success of this fund, and that the gospel will compel us to be a church that includes all of the people groups of the communities of North America.” Smith agrees, “By supporting these pastors-in-training, we are being true to the great commission. This is kingdom ministry. Lance Lewis, my PCA brother in Sacramento CA, calls it ‘redemptive ethnic unity’ – advancing the gospel and growing God’s family in the way we should grow.”

MENTORING WHILE BEING MENTORED

When Jahaziel Cantu grew up in Mexico, he prayed for God to provide Spanish speaking pastors, and he soon realized that was God’s call for him. After college and a period of secular work, he learned through family contacts that Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS at that time had a campus in Dallas TX) offered scholarships to minority seminary students. Once



Pinelands Presbyterian Church, Miami FL.



Jahaziel Cantu

accepted into the Master of Divinity program, Cantu moved to Dallas and enrolled on scholarship. While attending seminary, Cantu interned with the Cristo Rey church

plant, helping lead the youth group, VBS, soccer ministries, and new ministries for men and children. He was mentored by pastor Josh Geiger, while he, in turn, mentored new believers. “I loved that system – I was immediately putting in practice at Cristo Rey what I was learning in seminary,” said Cantu.

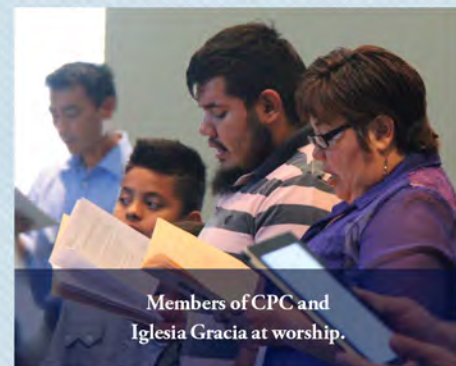
During the second half of Cantu’s seminary training, he received a scholarship from Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Houston TX. “The scholarship allowed me to serve the church and get my training all at the same time,” said Cantu. After graduating, Cantu accepted a position with Cristo Rey, where he served for three more years until God called him to Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) as associate pastor and Hispanic church planter in nearby Flower Mound. It is through the generosity of individual families, neighboring churches, and the presbytery that Iglesia Gracia was founded three years ago. Their support and prayers have provided the means for this new church to grow.

Cantu leads this Spanish-speaking congregation, which is a part of the larger English-speaking CPC congregation. “The majority of Iglesia Gracia members are new believers. I’m currently training men to be ordained as officers, men who already serve faithfully in leadership,” said Cantu. “Iglesia Gracia families are from Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the USA. Their extended families are back home, so they call themselves one big immigrant family of Christ.”

With the help of English-speaking brothers and sisters, Iglesia Gracia offers ESL classes that are attended by almost every church family. Each summer they hold a VBS outreach in a nearby mobile home community that is almost all Hispanic. Cantu has also started offering free guitar lessons in the community to make connections with Hispanic families. The church offers a monthly outreach lunch to which members



Vacation Bible School led by Iglesia Gracia.



Members of CPC and Iglesia Gracia at worship.

invite neighbors and coworkers. “ESL students attend, often coming back on Sundays to find out more about who God is,” said Cantu.

Cantu is abundantly grateful for the seminary and churches that partnered with him to pay for seminary expenses, and later church planting expenses. “I had scholarships through seminary because people gave. I would really encourage people to continue that blessing. There are six million people in the Dallas area and one third to half of them are Hispanic. We only have three Spanish-speaking PCA churches in the area. We need support, encouragement, and people who want to mentor. We have people willing and ready to do the work – if there is funding to help them get started in ministry,” said Cantu.

“We only have three Spanish-speaking PCA churches in the [Dallas TX] area. We need support, encouragement, and people who want to mentor. We have people willing and ready to do the work – if there is funding to help them get started in ministry.”

~Jahaziel Cantu, Christ Presbyterian Church

THE LEAD ARTICLE in this issue of *Multiply* (overleaf) tells the stories of PCA minority pastors Kevin Smith, Irwyn Ince and Jahaziel Cantu. They serve as leaders among our churches because God's people came alongside them by training, mentoring, and providing financial support for them as they prepared for service as pastors. Here we present several more who were similarly supported in their ministry training. They now serve as pastors and provide leadership and mentoring to others. The PCA Unity Fund was established to provide seminary or seminary-equivalent tuition support for African American and other minority candidates for the gospel ministry, as well as to assist those candidates starting in ministry. We invite you to come alongside future candidates such as these, to mentor and train them into ministry. Please prayerfully consider giving to The PCA Unity Fund. Having funds for distribution depends on the generous contributions of God's people. For more information or to contribute, go to: www.pcamna.org/unity-fund.



"Many, many people were instrumental to my development as a pastor. But Glenn Hoburg and Randy Nabors in particular were vital mentors during my early days as a church planter."

-Duke Kwon, Lead Pastor at Grace Meridian Hill, Washington DC.



Pastor Brian Kelso, President of LAMP Theological Seminary (left) mentored Mr. Leo Rodriguez as well as LAMP Theological Seminary graduates Timothy Torres, Assistant Pastor for family and young adults at Christ Covenant Church in Southwest Ranches FL; and Hernando Saenz, MNA Hispanic American Ministries Coordinator.



"Chris Granberry has trained and mentored me along with other staff people at Sacred Road; and many, many individuals, families and churches have provided the financial support I needed through monthly giving."

-Joshua Tsavatewa, Children's Ministry Director & candidate for ordination, Sacred Road Ministries on the Yakama Indian Reservation.



"Our support as we prepared for ministry came largely from Rocky Mountain Community Church under the leadership of Pastor Alfred Poirier, Covenant Theological Seminary, family, and friends."

-Joshua Charette, Pastor of Great Plains Gathering in Billings MT.



Owen Lee, Senior Pastor at Christ Central Presbyterian Church, Centreville VA. Owen was trained, mentored, financially supported, and prepared for pastoral ministry by Pastor Samuel Park and New Life Mission Church of Fullerton CA.



"Craig Garriott (as my mentor), Faith Christian Fellowship Church (Baltimore MD), and Potomac Presbytery came alongside me to help me get through Chesapeake Theological Seminary. Wy Plummer and Bob Burns were instrumental in my getting the Doctor of Ministry degree from Covenant Seminary."

-Thurman Williams, Associate Pastor, Grace & Peace Fellowship, St. Louis MO & Adjunct Professor at Covenant Seminary in St. Louis MO.



Pablo Toledo, Assistant Pastor for Spanish ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Coral Springs, was mentored by Brian Kelso, graduated from LAMP Theological Seminary and was ordained in the South Florida presbytery in 2006.



"Toby Woodard and Redeemer Church in Travelers' Rest SC came alongside me to help train, mentor and financially support me in seminary."

-Alexander Myron Shipman (left), Senior Pastor of The Village Church in Huntsville AL, pictured here with Irwyn Ince.

MNA serves PCA churches and presbyteries as they advance God's Kingdom in North America by planting, growing, and multiplying biblically healthy churches through the development of intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at www.pcamna.org. Material in *Multiply* may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to: Fred Marsh, Managing Editor. Writing and design provided by Big Bridge, Asheville, NC (thebigbridge.com). *Multiply* is published by MNA. [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna) Find us at [facebook.com/pcamna](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna), twitter.com/pcamna & [linkedin.com/company/mission-to-north-america](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mission-to-north-america)

1700 North Brown Rd. • Suite 101 • Lawrenceville, GA 30043 • P: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201 • mna@pcanet.org • www.pcamna.org



Mission to North America
Presbyterian Church in America

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 101
Lawrenceville GA 30043
T: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201
www.pcamna.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MONTGOMERY, AL
PERMIT NO. 312

INSIDE MULTIPLY: THE PCA UNITY FUND

- GROWING INTO GOSPEL MINISTRY
STORIES OF SEVERAL PCA MINORITY PASTORS

From the Coordinator

*“...I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself.”* -John 12:32



The gazillion unique falling snowflakes, the billions of different stars above, the countless variety of flowers dotting the landscape, the thousands of ethnic groups making up humankind, the hundreds of breeds of dogs and cats roaming the earth: such rich diversity in the universe is central to the beauty of God’s creation. Diversity in unity is core to the beauty of God’s redeeming work as well. Jesus spoke of his crucifixion as his hour of glory, the place from which he would draw all peoples to himself. The beauty of the church, our drawing power, is in a message of reconciliation by the cross, where all may find forgiveness and favor with God, brought together to worship and serve as the one body of Christ. Old walls of hostility are torn down. We are one new man in Christ; one body with many, many different members, each member being renewed from sin and shame.

In this issue of *Multiply* are wonderful stories of gospel diversity in the PCA. We celebrate these stories and we long for more. Giving to The PCA Unity Fund prayerfully can multiply these stories in our life together, so that many more minority leaders are trained and serving Jesus among us as missionaries, church planters and pastors, so that people from all different places and groups are coming into our congregations and experiencing the reconciling love of God in Christ. May the Lord make it so! Thank you for reading and considering how he might have you give.

Paul Hahn
MNA Coordinator