

Reaffirmation of Relationship Between Presbyteries and Presbyterian Homes

Background

Presbyterian Homes, Inc. established in 1927 for the Housing and Care of the Elderly by representatives of Carlisle, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northumberland, and Donegal (formerly Westminster) Presbyteries has been supported over six decades by these and additional presbyteries who have channeled their institutional ministry with older persons 'through Presbyterian Homes. Presbyterian Homes identifies itself today as a human care service organization through the following Mission Statement which reads:

The Mission of Presbyterian Homes, Inc. is to offer Christian understanding, compassion, and a sense of belonging to those whose needs may be physical, psychological, social, financial, or spiritual in nature, by providing a full range of high quality health care, housing; and other related community services directed primarily to the elderly, and which contribute to the wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

Presbyterian Homes serves nine presbyteries within the geographical area of the Synods of the Mid-Atlantic and the Trinity.

In recent years significant change has been occurring in the American society including:

1. A developing dependence of health care and housing needs, a growing awareness of aging needs, and a dependence of social services upon the nation's economy.
2. Increasing cultural diversity and social pluralism impacting on personnel and admissions **all** human service agencies.
3. An increased blurring of the distinction between charitable, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations along with challenges to the nation's long-standing tax exemption consideration for non-profit organizations.
4. Some membership decline and greying of Presbyterian and other Mainline Churches along with a decrease in the perceived importance of denominational loyalty. As more Presbyterians reach retirement age and live within a retirement income, their ability to contribute to the Church and related organizations significantly declines.

These trends validate the importance of Presbyterian Homes strategic planning process!

Intentions

Accordingly, the Board of Presbyterian Homes affirms for the understanding of the Churches and the Presbyteries its goals for Mission, Service Direction, and organizational Development.

1. PHI places high value on the Judeo-Christian roots of its heritage as the basis of its services and sees itself as an extension of the ministry of the churches in meeting the needs of the elderly.
2. PHI orients staff with an understanding dignity of men and women as the crown of God's creation.
3. PHI promotes organizational standards of high quality care and excellence of service to be a basic employee commitment.

4. PHI continues to define its charitable, benevolent Mission as equitable to the end that each generation of elderly will have services. available proportionate to the resources available.

The history of our denomination has seen generous support for the care of the indigent and the elderly. Presbyterian Homes holds valuable the long-standing hallmarks of church-relatedness including:

- a. a heritage of strong concern and generous support for aging ministries
- b. accustomed percentage and dollar levels of financial support from Presbytery budgets
- c. the effective role of the Presbyteries in Trustee selection

The future of the Church and its service echelon like Presbyterian Homes depend on our continuation of these practices.

Accordingly, Presbyterian Homes' goals for service provision include recognition of the connections the Church with the election of residents of the Presbytery areas to the Homes' Board.

The Presbyterian Homes' Board of Trustees urge the Presbyters too:

1. Advocate the value of Church-related services and encourage both support and utilization of these services.
2. Encourage the Churches to develop a ministry of caring for the elderly through local programs and services.
3. Encourage Church members to support the PHI agencies and services through individual volunteers and financial support.
4. Encourage the training of future Church leaders toward understanding ministry with the elderly through participation in PHI facility programs.
5. Encourage congregations and presbyteries to make available opportunities for communication concerning Presbyterian Homes ministries through presentations at Church functions and distribution of educational Homes' materials.
6. Encourage the recognition of the services of Presbyterian Homes as a Mission of the Presbytery and grant inclusion in Presbytery Causes allowing distribution of educational materials and solicitation of support.

PHI submits to the Presbytery this statement of intention with a prayer that God will use these agencies and services to become an ever more distinctive instrument for the care of His people.

9/22/1992

Document Signers

Max A. Lauffer, Moderator, for the Presbytery of Carlisle
Elizabeth G. Atticks, Stated Clerk, for the Presbytery of Carlisle
Barbara Russell, Chairman of the Board, for Presbyterian Home, Inc.