

My Ministry Vision

**1. Spiritual Growth of Churches**

The ministry of the President is primarily in the **spiritual leadership**, in having a clear vision, inspiration and encouragement for unified ministry among the churches and departments of PCSBA. The President provides spiritual help to churches and pastors. He is a pastor to the pastors.

The main function of the Association is in **helping the churches to obey the Great Commission**. The association exists for the benefit of the churches, and its intention is to minister to the churches. The churches are "owners" of the Association, and therefore they value the "voluntary opportunity" of joint service.

1. The President looks after the **spiritual health of churches**. Healthy churches are those that are able to produce new ministers, missionaries, and pastors, and to equip them for their ministry. Healthy churches are those that produce people **called by God** to be ministers. Currently we are experiencing a great deficit of pastors, missionaries...who could respond to God's call and respond as Isaiah did: "...Here I am, send me." (Is. 6:8).

2. The President helps in **uniting the churches' pastors** for mutual fellowship, sharing of experiences, as well as helping each other in resolving current problems. A positive personal contact with each pastor of the PCSBA's churches is necessary for the President's effective ministry. Special attention is needed to the pastors of smaller churches, as well as those that are farther from the center of the PCSBA's churches. The President must annually visit all the churches.

3. The ministry of the Association must lead to the increase of the **disciples of Jesus Christ**. Their development is the main "result" of mutual service. This is a biblical approach to church growth. Discipleship, mentorship, testimony, and preparation of spiritual leaders must be central spiritual goals of every church. The main indicator of our spiritual condition is our sanctification, a changed character, obedience to the lordship of Christ, and the practical living of Christ's teaching. The Association is the main resource of help in developing different ministries of the local churches, spiritual support to pastors, as well as the foundation for developing future pastors.

4. The President helps in spiritual **revival of churches** which is a pressing need of our time, as well as in resolving different spiritual problems. Honesty, transparency in decision-making, mutual trust, and execution of the decisions must characterize our unity. The spirit of unity must not be broken by competitiveness, ignoring the decision of other churches, the decision to isolate the local members from fellowship with other churches, etc. The spirit of unity—the admission of codependency, love and support for each other, and the atmosphere where " ... good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" (Пс.132:1)

The necessity for **spiritual unity** is a foundation for spiritual blessing. Unity is possible only in light of the same **vision**. I wish to engage as many pastors as possible in a dialogue about the future of our Association, and on that basis to develop a common **vision of the Association** which wouldn't just remain on paper, but would be a unifying motivation of unified ministry of churches. **The vision** must clearly define the necessity of our unified ministry, it must become voluntary unifying motivation to fellowship, help, sacrifice, and invest resources into the Association. PCSBA must also develop a **growth strategy** for spiritual and missionary ministry of churches.

As I see it, churches' primary need is not in the structural or organizational changes (although it may be necessary), but in the spiritual revival and rededication of church members to service to the Lord.

**5. Youth ministry.** The youth is not the future, but the present. It is necessary to demonstrate trust to the youth in ministry, as well as in deciding of all church issues. It is the feeling of responsibility for the church decisions, as well as participation in all of the aspects of church life that strengthens youth at the local churches. It is good when the pastor's helper is the church youth leader. It facilitates a better communication and understanding of the youth. It is necessary to overcome the cultural isolation, as well as to come to a better understanding of why does the youth leave to American churches. It is an issue not just of the language, but also of the youth's anticipation and expectation of ministry, preaching, the well-being of the church, etc. It is necessary to help in increasing the number of **young brothers** who participate in church committees, ministers, assembly's delegates, etc. It will lead to the youth's increased sense of responsibility for the present and the future of the Association. The problem of misunderstanding among generations might be overcome by continual

communication, dialogue, as well as ministry together (for example: Ministry of Apostle Paul and Timothy).

I see the main goal of my ministry among the Slavic churches in making them more effective in ministering to the second and third generation, as well as helping the first generation to better understand the need for any given changes.

6. The President must be an initiator of **development of discipleship**. The sharing of the spiritual experience to the new generation, the knowledge, the discipleship training, practical training of resolution of church problems, etc., must take place on a personal level. It is necessary to host a training seminars for the church pastors on this topic. The future of the Association rests on the amount of time we invest in the young ministers, as well as the possibilities to recognize the potential spiritual leaders among them.

7. It is necessary to cultivate a habit for **training young, brothers called to ministry** in the best seminaries of the US with the future prospect of their ministry in the local churches. After returning to their churches, they should be given opportunities for spiritual ministry with full support of their families. The priority of "spiritual ministry" must be elevated to a new level, especially at a time when the youth today decide what to dedicate their life to. It is my desire to see many of them dedicate themselves to the ministry of a pastor or a missionary.

## ***2. Development of Missionary Ministry***

1. **The Great Commission** is not a suggestion but a call to action for all of the disciples of Christ. The training and practice of personal evangelism of every church member is very important for future growth.

2. Continual support of **ministry abroad** in maintaining a financial basis for long-term as well as short-term opportunities.

3. Helping in **increasing the percentage of those who are getting baptized** in the PCSBA's churches from outside the church.

4. Encourage the local evangelism. Slavic churches must continue to be responsible for the Slavic diaspora. We are responsible for the preaching of the Gospel first to the Slavic people and then to all the other people as apostle Paul was responsible for preaching first to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles.

### **Service Format**

1. To be open, accessible, simple, and approachable for church leaders.
2. Be demanding not just of others, but also of ourselves.
3. Be open to communication and say things as they are, to ignore politics in decision making as well as being courageous in defending the Biblical principles.
4. Rely on accepted decisions, and value the work done by the PCSBA
5. Entrust the assistants a significant part of the burden and responsibility in ministry
6. Be respectable to the PCSBA associates who served in the past.

### ***Plans... continued***

1. Be precise at defining the duties of different ministries as well as develop one format of accountability of the PCSBA's departments.
2. Maintain all the positive aspects of the past ministry of the PCSBA as well as develop new direction in ministry
3. Maintain constant contact with all leading pastors of churches as well as PCSBA's departments
4. Utilize the experience of service with Southern Baptist Convention for improvement of organization of the PCSBA ministry
5. Maintain unity of PCSBA churches and the purity of the Gospel
6. Continue ministering in opening new missionary centers in the US and abroad
7. Organize a database of ministers who seek opportunities to serve in the PCSBA churches
8. Utilize the modern methods of communication for regular contact with PCSBA ministers
9. Regularly release an edifying video of appeal to churches of PCSBA

After serving for ten years in the American churches as a mentor, leader, and strategist in church planting, I recognize my unique God-given opportunity in helping the church body. I served in the California Convention of Southern Baptists for nine years, and beginning in 2016 I serve in the North American Mission Board. The experience that I gained in the Convention gives me creativity in resolving church issues, as well as implementing development strategies for the PCSBA.

The ability to speak English, the familiarity with American culture as well as the knowledge of the contemporary issues of American churches along with 25 years in the United States allows me an opportunity to objectively look at the processes of Slavic churches, and continue the resolution of problems instead of ignoring them. First of all, it is an issue of our youth which is associated with the future of Slavic immigration. God blessed me with the knowledge of not only Russian and Ukrainian, but Also of English which helps me to better understand the youth, their worldview, culture, problems as well as the atmosphere in which they live. I am privileged to have an opportunity to preach not only in Russian, but also in English.

I recognize that it is only possible to serve in this capacity by being dependent on God, submit under His leadership, and be filled by His grace and love, in humility and His blessing.