



January 13, 2013

Dr. Larry C. Hovis
Executive Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina
8025 North Point Boulevard, Suite 205
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27106

Dear Dr. Hovis and Distinguished Members of the Partnership Development Committee:

On behalf of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina I wish to extend deep appreciation for the support offered us by leadership and congregations of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. It is our desire that we affirm one another as we continue in missional collaboration.

Since the very beginning of WMU in North Carolina in 1886, our purpose has been clear. It is missions. As Wanda Lee, WMU SBC Executive Director/Treasurer says in her book The Story Lives On: God's Power Throughout Generations, "Missions has been defined as what God does through the church to extend the gospel in both word and deed to all the people of the world." Thus it has been our task and commitment to challenge and bring together people and churches for the fulfillment of God's mandate.

Through its 126+ years, WMU has sought to engage others to be "radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission" as we have challenged preschoolers, children, students and adults to learn of those around the world who are lost in the darkness of sin; teaching them how to pray for our missionaries; helping them experience for themselves the joy of giving not only of resources of money and time, but also of self; providing opportunities for personal involvement in missions and ministries; and to hear and obediently respond to the Father's call on their lives.

WMU NC has come to realize that in order to more fully engage others there must be collaboration and partnering with those who share a common purpose and calling. The initial missional collaboration framework established in 2009 between CBFNC and WMU NC included four (4) foci:

- Missional appropriate uses of Missions Resource Plan
- Avenues for collaboration beyond financial
- Missional enhancement of congregations, WMU NC, and CBFNC
- Strategies for mutual affirmation

This collaboration was further solidified with the Covenant Between WMU NC and CBFNC signed by Dr. Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator, and Ruby Fulbright, then WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer.

The covenant agreement is still in place and dovetails into our continuing collaborative efforts, including:

- Utilizing the funding in our organization's support, training, and advancement of Christian missions and ministry;
- Providing periodic reports of activities, ministries, and stories of ministries and training experiences;
- Encouraging staff and volunteers to offer CBFNC congregations opportunities for worship, Bible studies and training and continue to develop and strengthen current and future ministry opportunities;
- Assisting with promotion of the CBF Offering for Global Missions among CBF churches in North Carolina;
- Assisting with training for missions education leaders who use CBF missional formation literature;
- Providing ad space for CBFNC and CBF in *Tarheel Talk*; and
- Providing our Camp Mundo Vista® facility for meetings, retreats, and other activities.

Listed here are current collaborative efforts, as well as those areas where WMU NC would encourage and invite participation from CBFNC congregations in the future:

- ✚ CBFNC link on WMU NC website
- ✚ *Tarheel Talk* includes CBFNC articles, CBF field personnel, CBF General Assembly promotion, CBFNC Annual Gathering promotion
- ✚ Working with CBFNC missions, including the poverty simulation at Roanoke Rapids. We continue to support the work of Chaouki and Maha Boulos, field personnel in Lebanon, among others
- ✚ A letter was written and signed by WMU NC president promoting the Offering for Global Missions which was mailed to CBFNC churches
- ✚ Providing training for missions education leadership in CBFNC churches through WMU NC staff and WMU Leadership Network Specialists
- ✚ WMU NC and NC Baptist Men, another missional collaborative partner of CBFNC, continue to work side-by-side as Royal Ambassadors® (RA) and Challengers® have returned under the WMU umbrella. In partnership with NC Baptist Men, WMU NC has offered three association and church missions training sessions and Baptist Men have offered two trainings to give leaders the necessary tools to continue leading children and students.
- ✚ SHINE, the mission group for young women ages 18 to 35, continues to expand with new groups at Campbell University, Chowan Association, Little River Association, Elizabeth Church in Shelby, Ramoth Gilead Church in Elizabeth City, and Meherrin Church in Murfreesboro. SHINE: **S**erving God, **H**elping Others, **I**nspiring Believers, **N**etworking Community, **E**xperiencing Christ
- ✚ CBF field personnel participate in the summer camping program at Camp Mundo Vista®

- ✚ WMU NC provides resources for the Latina Leadership Institute in North Carolina which offers extensive training in various fields to strengthen participants physically, emotionally and spiritually to answer the call God has placed on their life
- ✚ WMU NC sponsors these hands-on ministry opportunities
 - **Habitat for Humanity® Women Build**, most recently in Rutherford County
 - **Prison Retreat** at Camp Mundo Vista, a 35-year ministry, providing love, acceptance and spiritual opportunities for selected women from the five (5) minimum security women’s correctional facilities in North Carolina
 - **Red Box Ministry** with over 1500 red boxes filled with toiletries, scripture and hard candy distributed to incarcerated women at Christmas. Contents are provided by women in local churches working with their associational WMU
 - **Military Ministry** – our first copyrighted military missions resource guide, *Ministering to the Military Community through the Local Church*, offers suggestions to aid deployed and returning home personnel, spouses and families
 - **Christian Women’s Job Corps/Christian Men’s Job Corps** has expanded to 18 sites in North Carolina offering parenting and life skills training and encouragement to women and men. Through mentoring, participants in the program gain purpose, self-confidence, direction and hope for their future

During 2011-2012 the WMU NC Executive Board was involved in a visioning process led by Dr. Chris Gambill from The Center for Congregational Health. The Board was challenged by statistics and demographics related to Baptist and church life in general and took steps to move the organization towards a non-profit business model while retaining the mission statement and core values our constituents recognize. While several issues were noted, the Board took action on those related to governance and financial development.

- Governance – a task force was appointed and charged with studying the structure of the WMU NC Executive Board. Dr. Roy Smith, Charlotte Smith, Irma Duke, Dana Hall, K’athy Gore Chappell, Melissa Essary, Linda Jones, Whitney Morton, Allison Markwood, Ruby Fulbright (ex officio) and Tana Hartsell (ex officio) reviewed the current structure and a recommendation made for a more effective structure.
- Finance – a recommendation was presented and approved to create the position of and employ a Director of Development. Cindy Finley was contracted to fill this position, beginning work in December 2012.

It is such a pleasure to serve our Father through Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina. He remains faithful as we seek to follow His lead in obedience. May He continue to guide our steps as we endeavor to become all He has created us to be.

Once again I thank you for your ongoing support. May the Father continue to bless, enrich and expand the relationship we share, providing further opportunities in which we may combine our resources of people, materials, and expertise as we seek to be faithful to His mission.

Joyfully His,

Tana H. Hartsell
President
Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina