

Who are Presbyterians Organized In Nurture and Teaching (POINT)?

POINT is a network of volunteers who offer curriculum interpretation and Christian education support to congregations in their area. POINT individuals may be presbytery staff, such as a resource center director or associate presbyter, educators serving in congregations, or other individuals who feel called to volunteer. The network also includes individuals appointed by Congregational Ministries Publishing to assist with specific tasks in their area throughout the year. Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) supports the network through the coordinator of educational ministries and other CMP staff.

How does my presbytery establish a POINT team?

A presbytery executive or committee can nominate, appoint, and commission individuals. Potential representatives may also contact the coordinator of educational ministries for information about the network, and find out how to become a member or regional representative. Individuals called to become part of the denomination's database of volunteers receive training in basic services, such as assessing a congregation's educational ministry and interpreting curricula to help a church meet its ministry goals. Individuals may work with congregations independently or with a team of volunteers in their area.

Where and how will POINT team members receive information and support?

POINT representatives receive information and support through Congregational Ministries Publishing's coordinator of educational ministries, other CMP staff, and the POINT CMP Regional Representatives. The regional team is available for consultation anytime through the POINT Web site, pcusa.org/point. Informational updates and materials are provided to network members through pcusa.org/point, pcusa.org/curriculum, and other websites, quarterly print newsletters, and The POINT Connection e-news. These tools are available to assist congregations with curriculum interpretation.

What is the suggested role of POINT representatives?

POINT team members provide:

- A connection to congregations that need help
- Opportunities to share ideas from the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) and other national or regional events
- Updates on Christian education trends and resources
- Articles or Web postings for presbytery or their own POINT newsletter
- Regular contact with churches to introduce themselves, share availability, to inform about current curriculum, resources, and workshops that may be helpful
- Feedback to CMP about educational needs and resources
- Face-to-face consultations with elders, pastors, or congregations seeking assistance, including resource interpretation and evaluation

How does the presbytery help the POINT representative to succeed?

The presbytery that appoints help POINT representatives succeed by:

- Highlighting the ministry of POINT on websites, at meetings, and in publications
- Commissioning POINT representatives to validate their ministry
- Establishing a current job description and plan of action for POINT members
- Providing financial support for continuing education events and other expenses
- Enlisting the support of other educators in the area to form a ministry team

If you have questions about the POINT network or other resources available through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), use the contact information above.