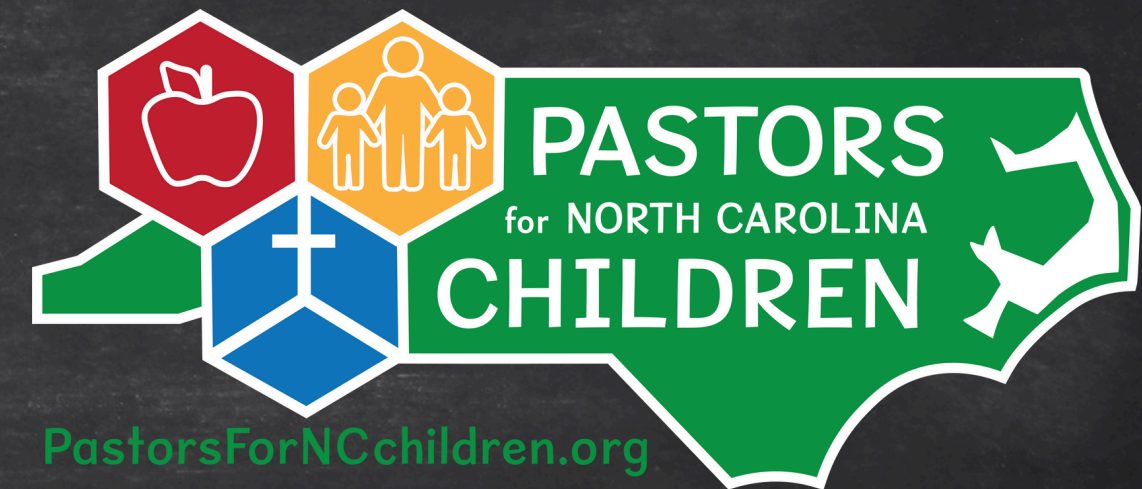


Expanding Church & School Partnerships to Help Neighbors Thrive

APCE Pittsburgh 1/23/26
1:30–3pm Workshop #C302

Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller
Director@PastorsforNCchildren.org



Welcome!

Write down on a post-it or in the chat:

- 1. The name & city of a school you are connected to or hope to connect with**
- 2. A question or two that you have about a current or potential school partnership you hope we address today?**

(Add post-its to the Chart Paper up front.)

Expanding Church & School Partnerships to Help Neighbors Thrive

Are you looking for ways to reach out to your community to love your neighbors and bring good news to the poor? Are you already in partnership with a local school and are looking to expand that ministry? Do you care about helping our children thrive regardless of their zip code or family background?

Connecting with your local public school is a great way to help our communities thrive and ensure all children have what they need to flourish. Through a combination of presentation and group conversation, this workshop will bring together congregations who already have a partnership with a local school and congregations who want to develop a partnership. We will discuss best practices for churches to support their local schools including what's working in our locations, pitfalls to avoid, and ideas we have for further ministry. We will focus on both immediate direct service to schools and longer-term systemic change for public education.



Presenter

Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller

Founder & Executive Director



919-346-6114

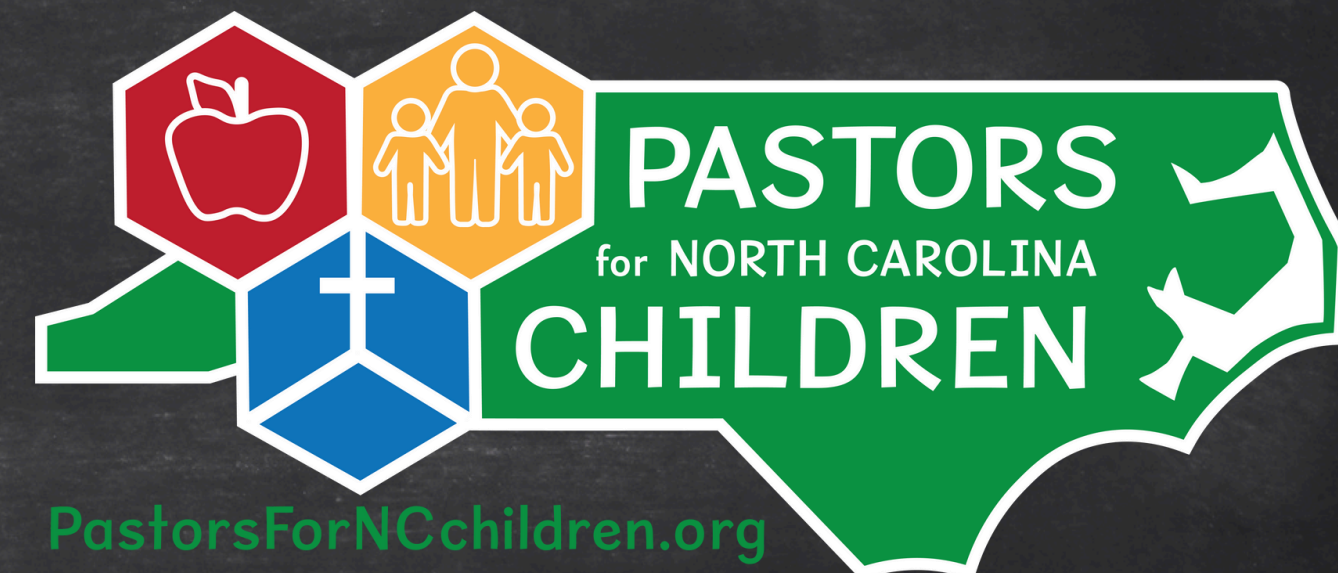
Director@PastorsForNCchildren.org

Pastors for NC Children

PO Box 37241

Raleigh, NC 27627

**Moravian Minister
based in Raleigh, NC**



Pastors for NC Children



- Nonpartisan, nonprofit, ecumenical, independent ministry
- Based in Raleigh, working statewide
- Pastors for Children network
- Principles for Public Education Advocacy
- <http://PastorsForNCchildren.org>
- Newsletter Sign up

Presentation/Handout Links:

<https://linktr.ee/Pastors4nckids>

A Prayer for Public Education

by The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hanchey
Used with permission.



**HOLY GOD in whom we live and move
and have our very being.**



THANK YOU for the gift of your light
in the children among us,
for your promise to know their greatest
joys and their deepest sorrow,
for your deep and abiding love.



**TEACH US our responsibility towards
your children.**

Open our hearts and minds

- **to the needs which we must meet,**
- **to gaps that we must fill,**
- **to the doors that we must open,**
- **to the wisdom that we must impart.**



**DIRECT US in paths of righteousness as
we make decisions about our schools -**

- about work and worth,**
- about salary and program support,**
- about the provision of food and
transportation and support services.**

**GUIDE US to engage, advocate. listen, ask,
and act.**



WE PRAY

- **for children whose brains are dancing
with hope and curiosity;**



WE PRAY

- **for children for whom learning is made difficult because of barriers rooted in language, inequity, or challenges of mind and body and medication;**



WE PRAY

**for children who arrive fragile, hungry,
scared, sad, and broken;**



WE PRAY

- **for children whose legs cannot navigate the stairs of the school bus or the playground or the building;**



WE PRAY

- **for children who are nourished by play and beautiful music and the opportunity to create beautiful things;**



WE PRAY

- **for children for whom school is the only happy and safe place;**



WE PRAY

- **for all teachers, bus drivers, custodians, administrators, nutrition specialists, counselors, psychologists, nurses, and volunteers who give all that they have, knowing that more is needed.**



**INSPIRE IN US the courage to advocate,
the wisdom to insist on what is right and
good, and the compassion to work for
wholeness for all children and all who
serve them. Amen.**



Introductions-Who is in the Room?

Share with your neighbor or in the chat:

- 1. Name**
- 2. Ministry Location**
- 3. Do you already have a school partnership?**

Types of Partnerships:



**Basic Needs
of Students**



Staff Support



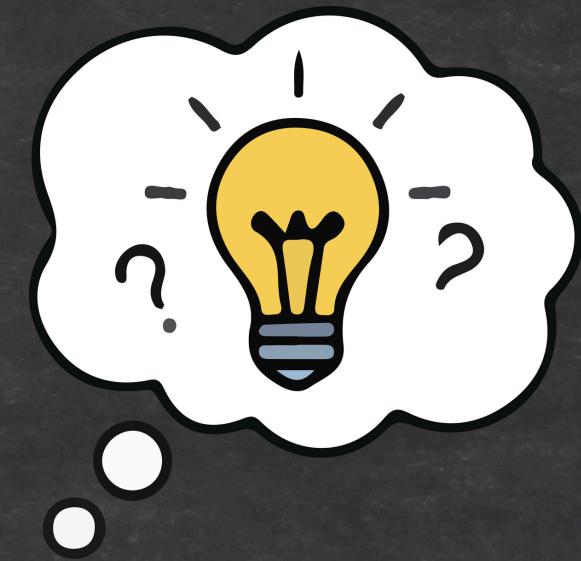
**Building &
Infrastructure**



**Financial &
Fundraising**



**Advocacy
& Justice**



Other?

Share Examples & Which Category?



**Basic Needs
of Students**



Staff Support



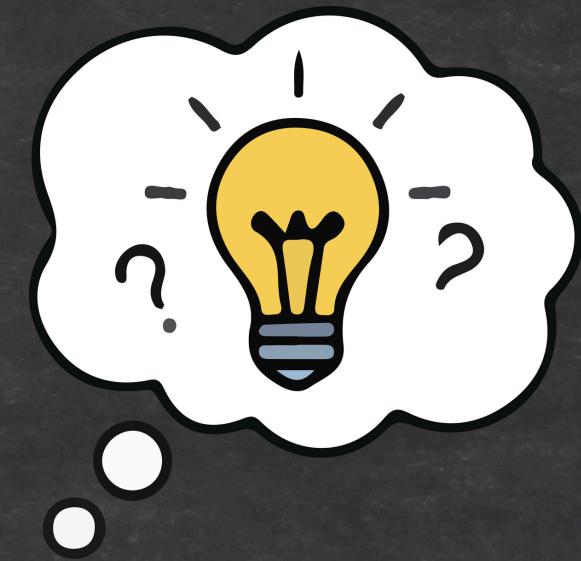
**Building &
Infrastructure**



**Financial &
Fundraising**



**Advocacy
& Justice**



Other?

What do you notice? What's missing?



**Basic Needs
of Students**



Staff Support



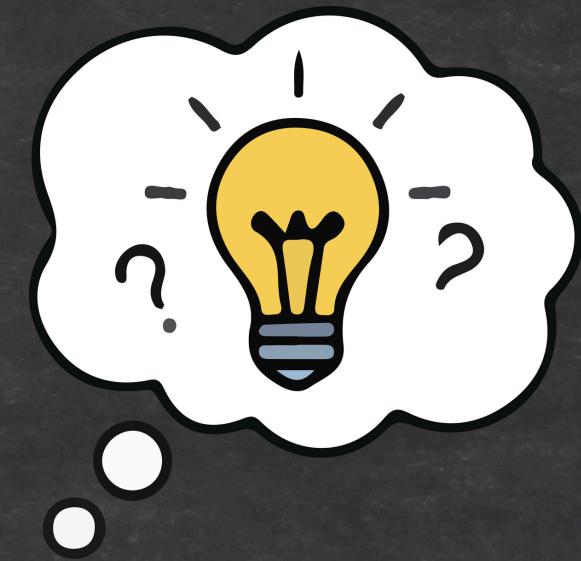
**Building &
Infrastructure**



**Financial &
Fundraising**



**Advocacy
& Justice**



Other?

Advocacy & Justice

“You cannot love your neighbor while supporting or accepting systems that crush, exploit, and dehumanize them. You cannot love your neighbor while accepting less for them and their families than you do for you and your own.”

**~The Rev. Dr. Mika Edmondson
Pastor in Chicago**

But Faith and Politics? How?

Always Nonpartisan--

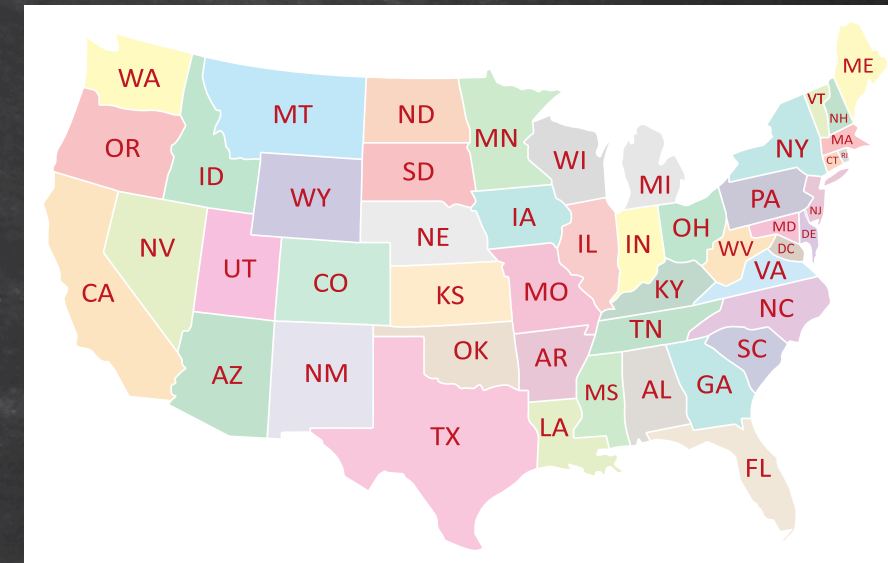
- Churches and Nonprofits CANNOT and SHOULD NOT be Partisan. We can advocate for POSITIONS but NOT candidates or political parties.
- We can encourage you TO vote. We cannot tell you HOW to vote.
- If we must be partisan, we are partisan on the side of the poor and vulnerable only!

Power Analysis & Research

Ex: Leading Our Public Schools

- Who makes the decisions for our schools?
- Who is responsible for funding?
- Who can “fix” our concerns?

President
US Congress
US Supreme Court
Dept. of Education
Secretary of Education
Dept. of Agriculture
State Legislature
State Supreme Court
Department of Education
State Superintendent
State School Board
Local School Board
District Superintendent
County Commissioners
School Principal
Classroom Teacher



Federal Government

Former Dept of Ed

- Civil Rights
- IDEA-- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Title 1 Funding (low-wealth schools)
- CTE-- Career & Technical Education

President
US Congress
US Supreme Court
Dept. of Education

Secretary of Education

Dept. of Agriculture

Dept of Agriculture

- School Breakfast & Lunch Program

Congress

- Passes the Budget for funding

President

- Policy Directives (Every Student Succeeds Act, No Child Left Behind)



National & State Public Education Support Organizations



Here are a few organizations PNCC has worked with or know through national organizing coalitions:

[National Public Education Support Orgs Spreadsheet](#)

Know an organization to add:

email me at Director@PastorsForNCchildren.org