

Freedom Rising Mission Statement & Core Values

MISSION STATEMENT

The Freedom Rising Initiative in Pittsburgh, in line with the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Directional Goals (adopted in 2016) adopt, ourselves, the following goals:

Evangelism & Discipleship:

Grow, proclaim and live out our faith in Jesus Christ by working with our partners, here and around the world, to build communities that witness to the gospel of Christ's love for the rich diversity reflected in all humankind.

Servant Leader Formation:

Seek, develop and energize diverse leaders who are answering God's call to equip the church to be a welcoming place of worship, mission, and spiritual nurture for all of God's children, especially those who have been marginalized.

Justice and Reconciliation:

Galvanize the church to act on issues of racism, violence and poverty as a prophetic witness to Christ's transforming justice by speaking and living out God's truth and compassion as we call ourselves and the world to account for injustice and oppression.

In keeping with these directional goals, the Freedom Rising Initiative in Pittsburgh Presbytery will additionally:

- Ensure a specific emphasis on ministry with and among African American males in Allegheny County
- Include a focus on nurturing the faith formation of African American men to raise up African American Christian leaders for the PCUSA and for the world.
- Intentionally work within the PCUSA, while striving to seek to reach out to others
- Specifically recognize and honor the rich diversity among African American men
- Address injustice (educational, criminal, economic, etc.) at both the systemic and personal levels.

CORE VALUES

These core values will further guide our ministry together:

- The ministry of Freedom Rising will focus specifically on ministry to and for African American males without diminishing the wellbeing of others – particularly other oppressed peoples
- The ministry of Freedom Rising will be Christocentric in nature while not excluding participants who do not profess faith in Jesus Christ
- Trusting in the radical abundance of Christ, we have the audacity to declare that the eradication of oppression for some enable us to make strides toward the liberation of all.