

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith International
Establishes Ministerial Excellence Center**

(KENTUCKY) – August 17, 2022 – The Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith International (PCAFI) announces the launch of its Ministerial Excellence Center (MEC). This initiative, through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment’s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders, also including contributions by the PCAFI, will be dedicated to supporting the wholistic flourishing of PCAFI pastors.

Through planning research, the PCAFI learned that pandemic-era pastoral ministry – especially bi-vocational pastoral ministry – is causing significant threats to the financial, physical, mental, and relational health of pastors and their families. The PCAFI through the MEC will offer direct relief to pastors and congregations with the goal of enriching the financial well-being of pastors and their families. The granted funds will enable the PCAFI to establish complimentary on-demand access to retain executive coaches, lawyers, accountants, financial planners, and therapists. These services will provide a first-class, culturally contextualized ecosystem of opportunities, including those available through the Lilly Endowment-funded grantee community. In essence, pastors will have a one-stop shop for many of the resources and tools that can propel them to higher levels of ministry effectiveness and abundant life.

Along with its new launch, The MEC is excited to bring in experienced professionals who will direct, strategize, and administer the operations of the MEC. This staff will work directly with Suffragan Bishop James Edwell and the executive office of the presiding bishop, which will provide oversight for this team.



Elder Aaron Porter will join the MEC as the program director. His primary role will be developing and implementing MEC program strategies and overseeing the management of programmatic budgets to ensure effective and compliant use of grant and contract funds.



Pastor Terrance Bridges will join the MEC as the program strategist. His primary role will be developing and implementing MEC program strategies and identifying ways to expand the breadth of the MEC program.



Tara Behanan will join the MEC as the program administrator. Her primary role will be to work with the executive director of finance to adhere to the Lilly Endowment's administrative and recordkeeping guidelines to support accurate documentation of activities.

The PCAFI is excited to establish this new resource and welcome these dedicated individuals whose combined experience and commitment have made them the perfect candidates to help catapult this endeavor and accomplish its goals. The PCAFI envisions the MEC building institutional partnerships to help pastors and churches obtain low-interest capital for their families and churches, as many pastors' personal finances often fund congregational life and church operations at the direct risk of the pastors, their families, and their futures.

For more information about the Ministerial Excellence Center please visit <https://www.pcafime.org/>

About Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith International

The Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith International (PCAFI) was founded by Bishop Samuel N. Hancock in 1957. Established from its inception as a Oneness Pentecostal organization, the group sought to create a union that would embrace the highest standards of holiness. Today, with churches across the globe, the PCAFI remains committed to its trademark of spiritual excellence and integrity on behalf of the Apostolic faith. Lambert W. Gates, Sr., is the current presiding bishop.

For more information about the PCAFI, visit <https://www.pcafintl.org/>

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