

## Presenting a New Draft Structure for Yellowstone Presbytery – Vision Team

### I. Presbytery 101-Understanding Presbytery

**Premise 1:** The Church is the Creation of, the Servant of, the Body of, the Beloved in Jesus Christ for the purposes of displaying the loving reign of God in the world.

**Matt. 16:** “...on this rock I will build my Church.”

**Eph. 2:10:** “God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

**I Cor. 12 and Rom. 12:** The connected Body of Christ – all necessary.

**Rom. 5:8:** “But the proof of God’s amazing love is this... Christ died for us.”

**Premise 2:** The Presbytery is Body of Christ made up of the PCUSA Churches to loving display the reign of God through a given region.

Traditionally, we are connectional for the purposes of:

Governance

Training and Equipping / Nurturing

Mission Together

Networking together

Worshipping

- I. **The Make-up of the Presbytery:** The Presbytery is US!
  - i. 27 Churches = 1 lay elder and 1 clergy member
  - ii. Committee membership of elders and clergy
  
- II. **The Responsibilities and Powers of Presbytery,** from *Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers*, by Joan S. Gray and Joyce C. Tucker
  - A. Mission [G-11.0103a,b,c] – *Council, Vision Team, Mission Committee*
    - i. Develop strategy/vision for our region
    - ii. Link and Coordinate efforts of the churches
    - iii. Lead programs to carry out the ministry of the larger church in our area
  
  - B. Duties to Congregations [G-11.0103f,g] – *Committee on Ministry (CoM)*
    - i. Provide help, guidance and resources
    - ii. Provide regular pastoral visits
  
  - C. Powers in regard to Congregations [G-11.0103h,I,j,k,x,y] – *CoM*
    - i. Organize New Churches
    - ii. Divide, dismiss, and dissolve churches
    - iii. Control location of churches
    - iv. Oversee pastorless churches
    - v. Review minutes of sessions
    - vi. Act on requests for exemptions regarding real property

- D. Powers in Regard to Ministers [G-11.0103 n,o,p] – CoM**
  - i. Ordain, receive, dismiss, install remove and discipline ministers / similar Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP’s)**
  - ii. Establish and dissolve pastoral relationships**
  - iii. Designate other than pastoral ministries**
  
- E. Candidates [G-11.0103 l,m,q] – Vocations Committee / CoPM**
  - i. Receive Candidates for Ministry**
  - ii. Elect readers of Ordination Exams**
  - iii. Receive Candidates for professional service other than ministry of the Word.**
  
- F. Inclusiveness [G—11.0103 d,e,] – Committee on Representation**
  - i. Show inclusiveness in its structures**
  - ii. Help churches to be inclusive**
  
- G. Judicial Powers [g-11.0103 r, s] Permanent Judicial Commissions; Investigative Commissions**
  - i. Serve as the Court of the Church**
  - ii. Exercise original jurisdiction**
  
- H. Administration [G-11.0103v,w]—Council and Committees, Staff**
  - i. Establish a Nominating committee**
  - ii. Establish and oversee the work of its agencies, committees, and commissions –**
  
- I. Relating to Higher Governing Bodies [G-11.0103t] – Council / Presbytery**
  - i. Elect commissioners**
  - ii. See that orders are carried out**
  - iii. Propose matters of common concern**
  - iv. Vote on amendments to the constitution.**

**II. The Current Structure Presented.... (Draw it...)**

**Presbytery**

**Council, Committees and Staff**

**Churches...**

**III. Adjectives to Describe the current system...**

- a. **Governing / uniformity of practice**
- b. **Stable/ Stationery**
- c. **Worship, etc. is front-led**
- d. **Hierarchical / permission-giving**
- e. **Processed-Based**
- f. **Predictable / comfortable**
- g. **Teaching**
- h. **Presbytery-focused**

**IV. The New Vision Statement: (Go to Docket) ...**

**Necessitates: Rearranging the 5 summary functions...**

**Necessitates: Moving towards new adjectives:**

- a. **Releasing for ministry**
- b. **Discipleship / missional**
- c. **Participatory**
- d. **A flattened , more accessible structure**
- e. **People/Community based**
- f. **Reasonable Risk/ Faith Generating**
- g. **Broader ways of Resourcing**
- h. **Church Focused**

**V. Structure Includes Open Groups: Gathering, Encouraging and Equipping, Sending... Reflecting and processing Discipleship**

- a. **Participatory to your interest**
- b. **Idea-generating / access-giving.**
- c. **Relationship / team-building**
- d. **Listening places – Person to person; church to church; leaders and commissioners; all for the voice of God. II Chronicles 20... Who might the Holy Spirit be falling upon?**
- e. ***Draw structure as of now, suggested for 2010...***

**VI. Structure for Transition year of 2011...**

**a. Maintains**

- i. Mandated committees.**
- ii. Functioning Council**
- iii. Current Staffing for additional “anding”**
- iv. But the life of the presbytery is shifting toward the Three Action Groups...**
  - 1. Vision Statement-powered**
  - 2. “Open membership”**
  - 3. Prayerfully elected leadership team in each.**
  - 4. Discipleship of the participants**
  - 5. Prayer and sharing**
  - 6. Actions which...**
    - a. “And” - Network**
    - b. Are listening and participatory**
    - c. Resource**
    - d. Inspire**
    - e. Team – build between leaders and churches.**

- VII. “Final Form” – We think.... To be implemented sometime in 2012.
- a. Key components:
    - i. Leadership/Vision Team of 6 presbytery elected Discipler-Leaders. Additional: GP and Stated Clerk – depending.
    - ii. These Leaders listen to, resource, disciple with the leaders of the Three Action Groups...
    - iii. Mandated Presbytery functions are subsumed in the Action Groups.
    - iv. Action groups consider the presbytery mission and ministries.

*The expressed intent of this Vision Form is to increase the discipleship, mission effectiveness, joyful worship and inspiration of the congregations of the Yellowstone Presbytery. This presentation is of a draft form and direction that has emerged from the 20-month visioning work of You-the presbytery! Now we ask that you funnel your ideas into the Action Groups and to the Visioning team, Council, or presbytery staff. An updated version of the vision format will be presented again to the presbytery at the May meeting in Lewistown.*

(Tear Here – Give to George, Debbie Blackburn, Ric Tieman, Fran Babcock)

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 My Observation / Question / Suggestion is....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

