



November 2, 2009

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

**“Vision serves the church like the North Star serves the explorer”**

***We have asked for and we have heard your input for a vision for Yellowstone Presbytery.*** With you we have prayed, studied, and listened to discover and discern God’s leading and vision. ***Thank you. Thank you for your participation!***

**Council has adopted and recommends the Presbytery’s adoption of this vision statement:**

**Yellowstone Presbytery** – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer -- is a community of congregations and pastors that are rooted in the love of Jesus Christ

**We will . . .**

**Gather Together** for God’s glory and spiritual synergy\*.

**Equip and Encourage** disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

**Go Out** to join Christ in His mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing His Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

\* **Synergy** (from the [Greek](#) *syn-ergos, συνεργός* meaning working together)

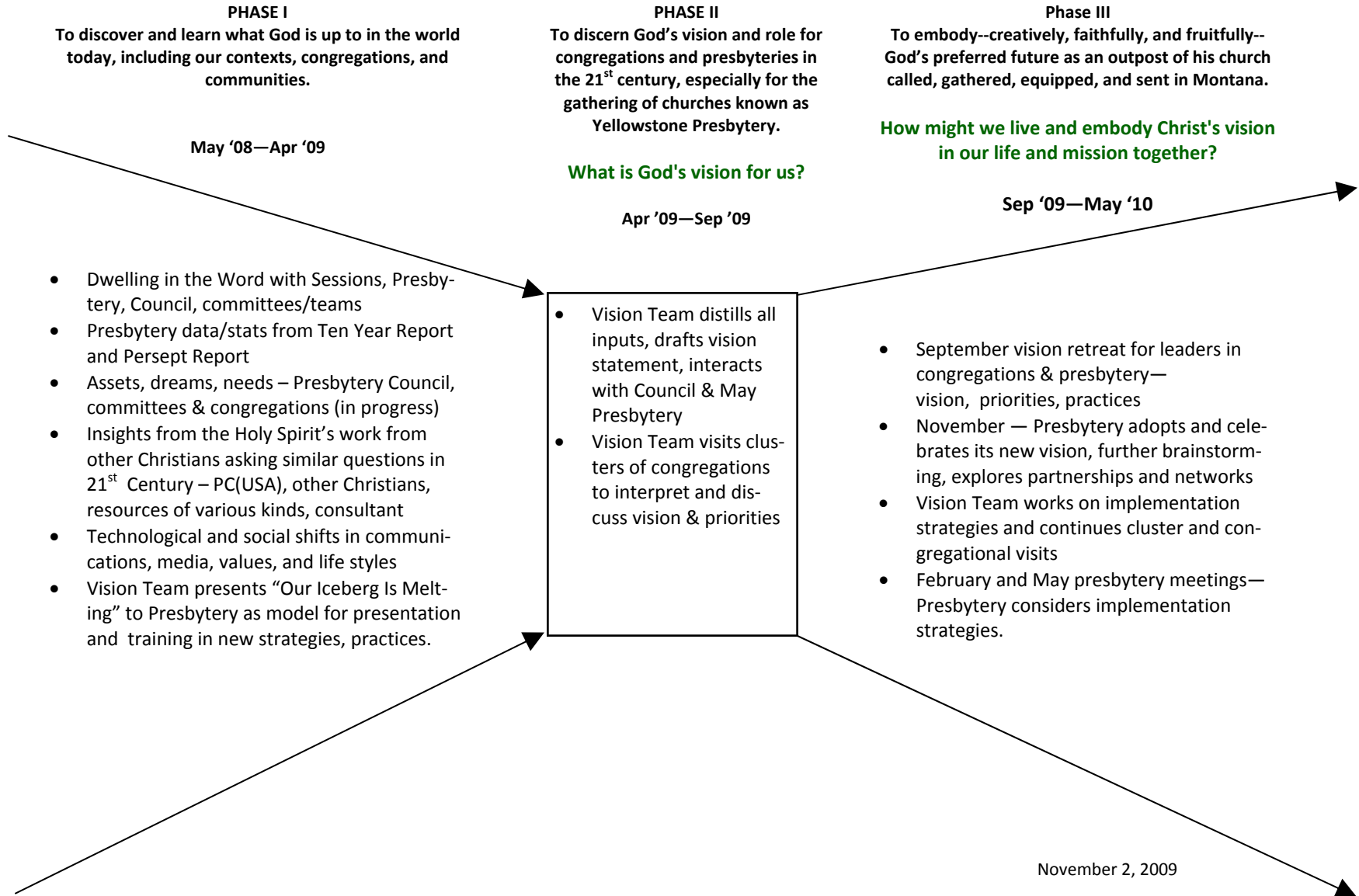
Now we ask you to gather with us for the next phase of the visioning process in which we will brainstorm and explore together how, with God’s help, we will embody God’s vision in our life and mission.

We are grateful for the Holy Spirit’s work and invitation to join Christ in his mission on this exciting journey of faith. We realize that this is an ongoing process of listening, learning, discerning and living into God’s fresh vision for a very new and different day in rapidly changing times; just as it was for Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and the first Apostles . . . We are excited about partnering and exploring together.

Yours in Christ,

Ric Tieman and Debbie Blackburn, Co-Chairs of the Vision Team  
Debbie Funke and Mike Gapay  
George and Kathy Goodrich, Susan Thomas, ex officio

**Yellowstone Presbytery's Year of Visioning and Discernment—WHERE ARE WE?**



### **Proposed Vision Statement:**

Yellowstone Presbytery – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer -- is a community of congregations and pastors that are rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. We will . . .

**Gather Together** for God's glory and spiritual synergy.

**Equip and Encourage** disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

**Go Out** to join Christ in His mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing His Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

## **Gather Together**

**To glorify God, rooted and grounded in Scripture and prayer**

Each time the community of congregations known as Yellowstone Presbytery gathers, we will begin with an extended period of joyful worship and study.

On Friday evening, we'll worship God in word, song, and prayer, and then brainstorm together how we might live this out in our gatherings!

Some possibilities . . .

- Pastor/clp, groups expanded (phone, online and/or in person)
- twice-yearly gatherings for meal, worship, and communion in various locations
- guided online study of particular text/book from Scripture
- weekly prayer concerns distributed by email
- semi-monthly "letter" from a congregation to the Presbytery, sharing what God is doing (up to) among them, calling them to, and asking for prayer (like a letter from one missionary community to another, à la St. Paul's letters)

Your ideas . . .

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. "Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together . . . Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." Acts 2:42-44a, 46-47a

## **Equip and Encourage**

**Congregations and their leaders for living the gospel**

Following the spiritual food of worship, study, and prayer, every gathering of Yellowstone Presbytery will equip for faithful discipleship in this time and place.

On Saturday morning, our facilitator, Rev. Marianne Rhebergen, will lead us in identifying the many gifts we possess for serving God. Then *you* can help brainstorm the kinds of training you need in the future!

Some possibilities . . .

- identify individuals or teams of persons with particular gifts and commission them as ambassadors to provide training for congregations
- develop YP's website as source for online training opportunities
- engage entire presbytery in Martha Grace Reese's *Unbinding the Gospel* series on evangelism: Real Life Evangelism
- training in spiritual disciplines and practices

Your ideas....

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4:11-12

## **Go Out**

**To join Christ in His mission**

Every time we gather in Christ's name as Yellowstone Presbytery, we will share with each other the joys, challenges, and opportunities of ministry in our communities; we will also commission each other for service.

On Saturday afternoon, we will dream and brainstorm how to support and extend our ministries and mission as congregations and as Yellowstone Presbytery.

Some possibilities . . .

- Listen and learn more about our communities (i.e.) invite leaders, representatives of organizations in the community / region to discuss the needs of our communities;
- encourage congregations to join each other for service projects and evangelism
- challenge each congregation to identify one or two ways in which they can join other organizations in meeting a need in their communities.
- neighborhood and workplace Bible study
- presbytery mission trips & wilderness adventure
- plant new missional fellowships, congregations

Your ideas...

"After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go... Jesus said to them, 'When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?' They said, 'No, not a thing.'" Luke 10:1, 22:35

**GATHER TOGETHER to glorify God,  
rooted and grounded in Scripture and prayer**

Acts2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**EQUIP AND ENCOURAGE  
congregations and their leaders for living the Gospel**

Ephesians 4:11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**GO OUT to join Christ in His mission**

Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. 2 He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. 5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' 6 And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. 7 Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. 8 Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; 9 cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' 12 I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.