

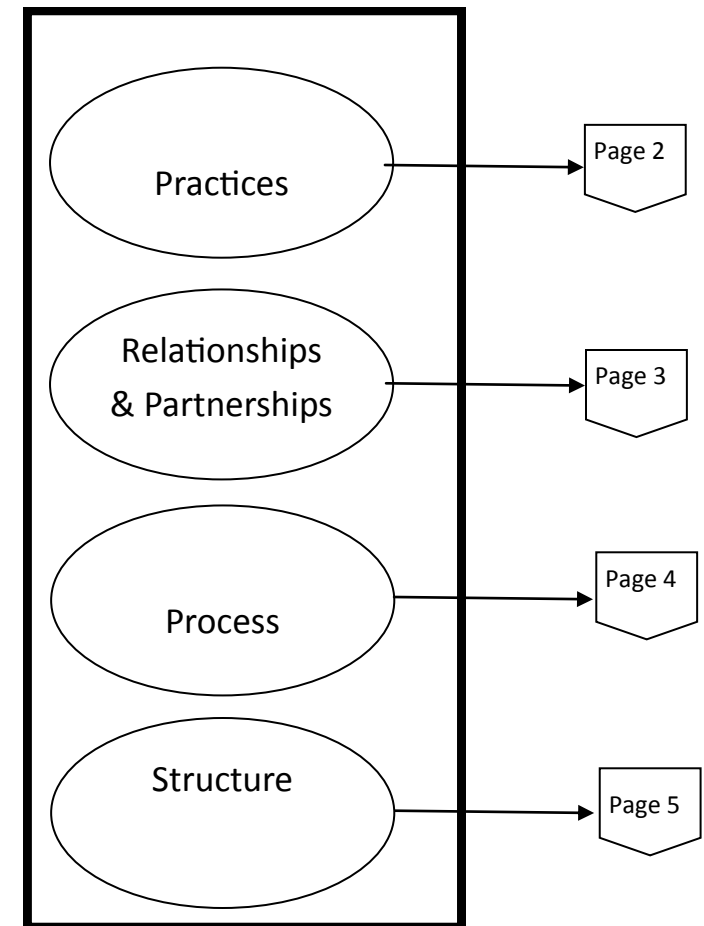
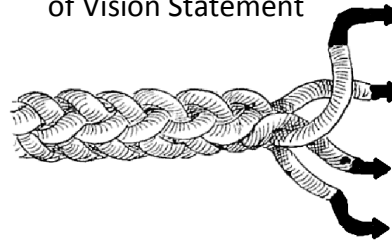
# Fulfilling the Presbytery Vision Statement:

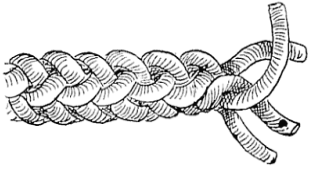
*Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that GOD corrects; a father's delight is behind all this. Proverbs 3:5-6 (The Message)*

## Guiding Principles for Vision Team as we draft a plan to fulfill the Vision Statement:

- Scripture, prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit
- Rapid cultural change requires ongoing adaption
- Fulfill Vision Statement
  - Disciple making
  - Dynamic Healthy Congregations
  - Join God in God's vision; trusting in God
- Connectivity, churches, leaders, commissioners, dreams
- Representative interactive grass roots
- Creativity — Artistry balanced with
- Tradition — Constancy
  - Grounded in Constitution (Books of Order & Confessions)
- Presbytery is all of US
  - Every Member
  - Every Church and affiliated organization
- Encouraging a culture of innovation
- Financially Responsible as we walk by faith.

Four Strands to Fulfillment of Vision Statement



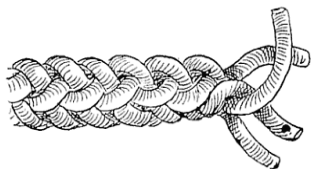


## Practices:

### Tuning Hearts, Minds, and Lives to Discern, Discover, and Embody Christ's Mission Together

*"We proclaim [Christ] admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ." Col 1:28 (NSRV)*

- Dwelling in the Word — All committees, teams, and Presbytery meetings
- Three focus groups at Presbytery (Gathering, Equip and Encourage, Sending Out)
- Prayer
  - Worship at Presbytery meeting with intercession for 2-4 Churches
  - Voluntary prayer times
  - Monthly conference call prayer meetings
  - Call to presbytery wide prayer as appropriate
  - Prayer calendar for churches
- Fasting — individually and as a body
- Caring for and connecting with the Christ in one another
  - Informal and small groups at Presbytery Meetings
  - Discipleship groups / Vital Pastors and Leaders
- Mission together . . . The day before Presbytery Project, or other Spirit — directed efforts
- Core values developed and followed for our meetings and life together.
- Other . . .



# Relationships / Partnerships:

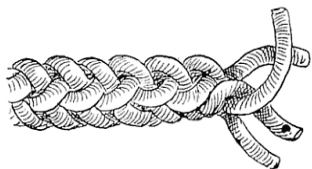
## The Presbytery is Us

*Therefore, as God's people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

*Bear with each other . . . Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect Unity.*

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Col 3:12-15 (NRSV)*

- One in Christ
- Encourage . . .
  - Efforts in connectivity — “Tinker Toy ‘Anding’”
  - Mutual Discipleship Groups of Pastors / Lay Leaders
  - Collaboration and partnerships in mission, equipping, . . .
    - Between those with passion for particular mission
    - Church to church
    - Networks
    - Individuals to individuals
    - With other presbyteries / judicatories / denominations
  - Mutual resourcing from within and outside Presbytery
    - Church to church
    - Leader to leader
    - Networks
  - Informal conversations including those whom we may differ
  - Prayer for each other
    - Publish a prayer calendar
    - Prayer meeting in congregations.
    - Presbytery wide prayer conference call

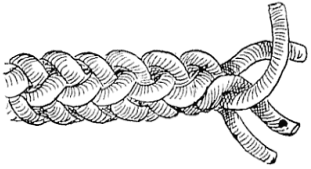


# Process:

## Journeying Together

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart . . . Jeremiah 29: 11-13 (NRSV)*

- Presbytery
  - Pursue practices and relationships and structure
  - Distill and communicate this four streams process toward fulfillment: Practices, relationships and partnerships, structure, and process
  - As we follow Christ, fulfill the Vision
- Council provides visionary leadership for presbytery, maintaining focus and ongoing equipping
  - Keeps the Vision Statement in front of Presbytery so Presbytery can be the spiritual, missional, leadership body
  - Listens to God's Spirit through the voice of the Presbytery
  - Carries out responsibilities as framed by Standing Rules
  - Model mutual discipleship
- Council helps committees and ministry teams
  - Prioritize mandated and emerging ministries
  - Prayerfully evaluate effectiveness
  - Add, combine, discontinue committees as appropriate
  - Encourages connectivity for Presbytery life and ministry to all levels of Presbytery
- Church—Session — Leader focused and equipped for their mission/discipleship in Christ
  - Communication of Presbytery vision to encourage congregation vision
  - Letter & questionnaire for sessions
  - E-Newsletter with stories, equipping for discipleship, and fostering connectivity.
  - Blog on discipleship
  - *This point Intentionally left blank for your ideas*
- Connecting and communicating through the uses of technology



# Structure:

## Organizing for Mission: Roles and Responsibilities

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him. Romans 12:3 (The Message)

- Council Make-up:
  - Option 1 — Retain current Council structure to retain Ministry emphasis of council's duties
  - Option 2 — Reform the Council structure to emphasize missional visioning role of Council's duties

Continued . . .

Option 1: Retain current Council structure to retain Ministry emphasis of council's duties:

- Work with Vision Team for one year to help committees and council strategize and prioritize.
- Council works to disband and form new committees as appropriate to fulfillment of the presbytery vision.
- Benefits:
  - Allows for gradual transitions as the Spirit may lead.
  - Less disruptive to the presbytery at this time.
  - Developments of Practices, Relationships and Partnerships, and Process developed in the visioning process are being integrated and will be functional in the current structure.
  - Because the Vision Team is unsure the presbytery truly wants to change the way it is structured, this allows for vision and mission development by maintaining the structure, but shifting the emphasis to include visioning by presbytery and council.
  - Allows for moderate development and incremental successes.
  - No Standing Rules would need to be amended.

Continued . . .

Option 2: Reform the Council structure to emphasize missional visioning role of Council's duties:

- A council of six members: 2 Lay Elders, 2 Clergy; 2 Members at large.
- The Co-General Presbyters and Stated Clerk are additional ex officio members with voice but without vote.
- A Moderator and Vice- Moderator are elected from among the six elected members.
- Committee Moderators would no longer comprise the council, but members of council would interface with the committees and moderators towards the fulfilling of the vision, for mutual discipleship, for “anding.”
- Benefits:
  - Expands the number of people involved in the leadership and mission of the presbytery.
  - Standing committee moderators may focus more on the work of their committees.
  - Allows Council to fulfill the vision with focus on the larger issues of visioning, discipleship, oversight and leadership, collaboration and innovation in support of the committees, ministry teams, focus groups, emerging mission/partnerships.
  - Strong emphasis on relationship-building and connectivity.
  - Standing rules could be thoughtfully amended.
  - Requires less meeting time, travel, money and energy at this level and frees up more time, energy and monies to be engaged in our mission and ministry.
  - Increases collaboration and partnerships

**Financial Considerations:** While the funds supporting the Administrative Budget of the Presbytery contain approximately \$100, 000 more than they did before the electing of our Co-General Presbyters, thus assuring the structure and ministry into 2013. The decline in partnership funds from General Assembly and the Synod may well produce a shortfall by 2014.

Continued . . .

## Option 2

### **Possible solutions include:**

(Your Vision Team in consultation with Council, has heard these but no final or formal decisions/actions have been taken on possible solutions as of August 2010)

#### • **Increase Revenues - Options heard include:**

- Form other partnerships, perhaps with presbyteries or granting agencies
- Assess, adapt, innovate existing ministry and mission in line with Vision (goal - greater faithfulness, effectiveness, fruitfulness)
- Listen, explore, innovate new equipping, ministry and mission which congregations and groups NEED and WILL SUPPORT and which is in line with Vision
- Implement online giving
- Increase per capita
- Intensify Co-General Presbyter fund-raising
- Perhaps a unified budget, or allow congregations to designate per capita and program funding
- Increase donations from those submitting expenses using existing voucher (Better publicize tax deduction)
- Improved, expanded communication of both what IS happening/being offered & of needs & opportunities
- Other

#### • **Decrease expenditures - Options heard include:**

- Increase reliance on technology - i.e. virtual meetings via video conf, significant expansion and use of website for connecting, equipping,
- Decrease travel to meetings
- Explore doing some things differently or scaling back, better aligning functioning of presbytery with its vision
- Prioritize in line with vision
- Perhaps explore cooperation with Glacier Presbytery where duplication occurs
- Other

- **Evaluate Staffing options:** While the personnel committee has received input that confirms the value of the Co-General Presbyter position and George and Kathy in that position, and while the vision team recommends the continuance of this arrangement, contingency plans should be developed in case the current staffing model should become financially unviable.