

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

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
Acts 2:42*

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God- what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12: 2 NRSV

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

*"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."
Eph. 4:12-13*

In order to *live* the vision that we have embraced, the presbytery will observe the following practices* as core to our life together.

*The term "practices" refers to ancient disciplines and observances of Jesus and the church privately and gathered since its beginning, such as described in Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 12 and 14. Spiritual practices are ways by which the Holy Spirit transforms ordinary individuals and communities of disciples to become more and more like Christ. These "sacred rhythms which arrange our lives for spiritual transformation"*** continued to guide and sustain the church throughout history. In modern times as the western church at large has taken many of its cues from the corporate and institutional world, these practices have often been neglected and sidelined to the peril of the church. As we now attempt to regain our moorings and move with God's Spirit into these new and uncertain times, we realize that our individual lives, congregations and presbytery and our guiding vision will only be realized as we learn to cultivate and practice these ancient disciplines in fresh ways in our contemporary culture.

1. DWELLING IN THE WORD at all committees, teams, and Presbytery meetings

2. PRAYER is a core practice in all our gatherings and our life together between meetings, including:

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

- 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, pastors & leaders

3. Fasting — individually and as a body

4. WORSHIP, including sacraments, is a central component of our gathering as a Presbytery.

5. CARING FOR AND CONNECTING WITH THE CHRIST IN ONE ANOTHER - Informal and small group times at *every* presbytery meeting

6. ON GOING, MUTUAL DISCIPLESHIP OF PASTORS AND LEADERS

7. THREE FOCUS GROUPS AT PRESBYTERY (Gathering, Equip and Encourage, Sending Out) –Ongoing study, exploration, dreaming, discerning the mind of Christ *together*

8. DOING MISSION TOGETHER i.e. before Presbytery partnering with our congregation there, other Spirit-directed efforts within our bounds or outside, partnering with others

** From *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*, by Ruth Haley Barton

CORE VALUES to be developed for our life together