

Stirrings of the Spirit, Ideas for Living into our Vision
Summary of input, ideas from Butte Presbytery Meeting & Vision Retreat

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

We will . . .

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

Slow down, sharing, listening each time we gather – where we see God at work,; each one's joys, hurts, needs,...; stories;

Worship with passion – experience power and glory; variety and breadth; learn from others

Relationships- it is all about relationships, with God and then one another; love and respect become norm; fun and play; cultivate joy and trust and be real, authentic more fellowship; **Explore** other get togethers – large and small groupings

Praying with and for one another at each gathering, worship time...& **practice of other spiritual disciplines** – i.e. the Word, fasting, on own and incorporated into gatherings and worship

Hospitality, reaching out to those new to presbytery

Presbytery and its meetings is pastors'/CLP's church - deep fellowship & reconnections, to receive as well as give/lead; less structure

Presbytery meetings – ideas include - Explore variety timings/spacing/scheduling/ lunch to START; various groupings @ meetings; cultivate and reward innovation

Communication – 2-way- presbytery to churches and back: all ways;

II. 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.*

Main themes from workgroup in Butte & Vision Retreat; (not ranked)

Developing leadership - in congregations and in wider presbytery– A team to explore, innovate and come alongside each congregation for customized perspective/equipping/encouragement of pastor/clp & leaders; take workshops on the road; sessions trained use resources within presbytery and outside; presbytery- training/workshops offered; clusters

Specific training/equipping requested – to know and share my faith; to listen to and discern; how to disciple; doing more with less & different with different; visioning; learning to adapt and to apply

Disciple people- raise expectations, excitement, what does it mean to be disciples vs. consumers or club members; problem with so many underequipped, or not equipped in congregations, this is an important step towards more involvement;

Build relationships, support, encourage - always a need

Connecting/Communicating/sharing, identifying & and sharing of stories & resources of all kinds – how and where God is at work; people; curriculum; knowledge & expertise; “bank”

Use of many technologies – i.e. visual conf call; Skype; webpages, webinars; Banks of talents, gifts etc.

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

Top 4 priorities chosen by workgroup in Butte – (not ranked) Approaches should include – listening, multi-generational input and partnering. Be sure there is follow through and follow up

1. **Youth, and Camp, outdoors:** outreach, discipleship, empowerment; network & partner with other PCUSA camps/programs/congregations for new and increased opportunities; capitalize on our outdoors location; youth ministry needs of congregations for equipping/training/encouraging espec.smaller ones – partner/network/share people & resources
2. **Parenting, families, Relationship Education, Mentoring:** relationship education; 16-28 age range with needs for connections across generations & mentoring, community, wisdom & advice; ideas of ministries being done already; prison population and families; youth ministry needs of congregations for equipping/training/encouraging espec.smaller – partner/network/share people & resources; high suicide rates in MT
3. **Communications** – sharing stories of what the Holy Spirit is already doing; explore/develop utilize technology of all sorts; for equipping, connecting/networking, encouraging,
4. **Identifying resources** – resources such as expertise, skills, passions, materials, curriculum, experience; goods and services (i.e. job transition needs); think globally; special software to facilitate this

Top categories from Vision Retreat (not ranked)

Children's issues - parenting & marriage relationships; special needs; education; affordable child car; chemical dependency; poverty; imprisonment's negative impact on children & families; health; unchurched children & families;

Hunger & poverty – food, jobs, housing, health/med care; financial planning; hidden homelessness;

Erosion of Rural communities & spiritual poverty – plight of family farms/ranches; unchurched people; public policy; isolation and need for community

Public Policy – relationships to influence it

Education –including high dropout rates

Isolation and need for community – region-wide & rural communities; children and families; poverty