

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



Yellowstone Presbytery – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer -- is a community 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 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.

* **Synergy:** from the Greek *syn-ergos*, *συνεργός* meaning working together

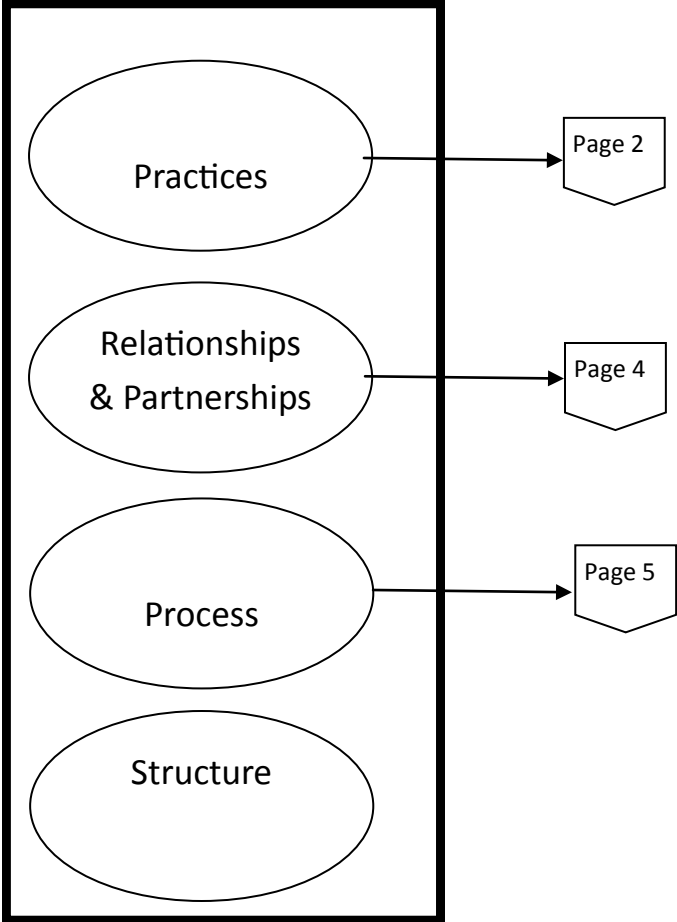
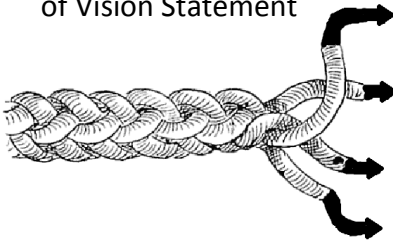
Fulfilling the Presbytery Vision Statement:

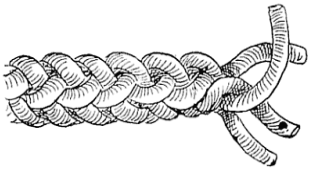
Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones 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

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Acts 2:42

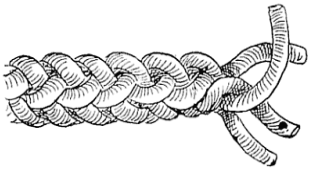
"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God- what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12: 2 NRSV

"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.

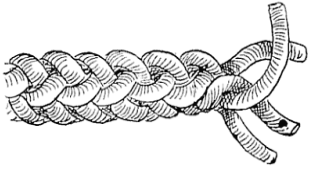


Practices (continued):

- **DWELLING IN THE WORD** at all committees, teams, and Presbytery meetings
- **PRAYER** is a core practice in all our gatherings and our life together between meetings, including:
 - 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
- **FASTING** — individually and as a body
- **WORSHIP**, including sacraments, is a central component of our gathering as a Presbytery.
- **CARING FOR AND CONNECTING WITH THE CHRIST IN ONE ANOTHER** - Informal and small group times at *every* presbytery meeting
- **ON GOING, MUTUAL DISCIPLESHIP OF PASTORS AND LEADERS**
- **THREE FOCUS GROUPS AT PRESBYTERY** (Gathering, Equip and Encourage, Sending Out) –Ongoing study, exploration, dreaming, discerning the mind of Christ *together*
- **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



Relationships / Partnerships:

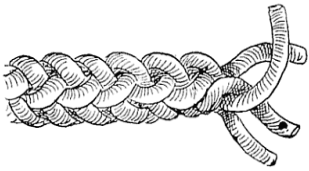
The Presbytery is Us

Therefore, as Gods 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


 ***What we are asking of the Presbytery today:***


-  To begin to engage the draft of the emerging vision structure


-  To begin to conceptualize it.

-  To help us “see” the possible structure with fresh eyes.

-  To help us probe its strengths and weaknesses.

-  To send us back to the “drawing board” with fresh perspective, input, and probing questions to consider implementing.

-  To begin to “buy in” to the process and to the emerging structure – if you agree with the general direction

-  To provide oral and written feedback.

Vision Structure Team's Process To Date

We began all meetings with Dwelling in the Word based on the daily lectionary passage in the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study. We have met six times, to date.

1. June Meeting:

- a. Consideration of the current structure, some of its weakness and strengths.
- b. Desired characteristics in a new structure were discussed, including that the new structure should emerge from a balance like a three-legged stool: The Vision<<>>The Form of Government<<>>>The Goals/Dreams of the presbytery.

2. July Meeting:

- a. Continued discussion of pre-req's for a new structure
- b. Discussion of what we hoped a new structure might do.

3. September – Meeting 1:

- a. Three basic options began to surface:
 - i. Option 1 – Keep things as they are and scale down the committees, expenses.
 - ii. Option 2 – Maintain a Centralized Structure, but base the Structure on the three main elements of the Vision Statement.
 - iii. Option 3 – De-Centralize the Structure to base the mission and ministry in the churches and regions, or clusters.
- b. Discussion centered on options 2 and 3.
- c. We also began to develop a timeline for presentation, refinement and implementation.

4. September – Meeting 2:

- a. Discussion Continued on the two options
- b. Questions began to arise as to particulars. For Example: How would the presbytery / clusters begin to fulfill the duties assigned currently to the CoM.
- c. Issues of representation were discussed.
- d. The why's, how's and when's of meeting as clusters and as a presbytery began to be talked about.

5. October - Meeting 1:

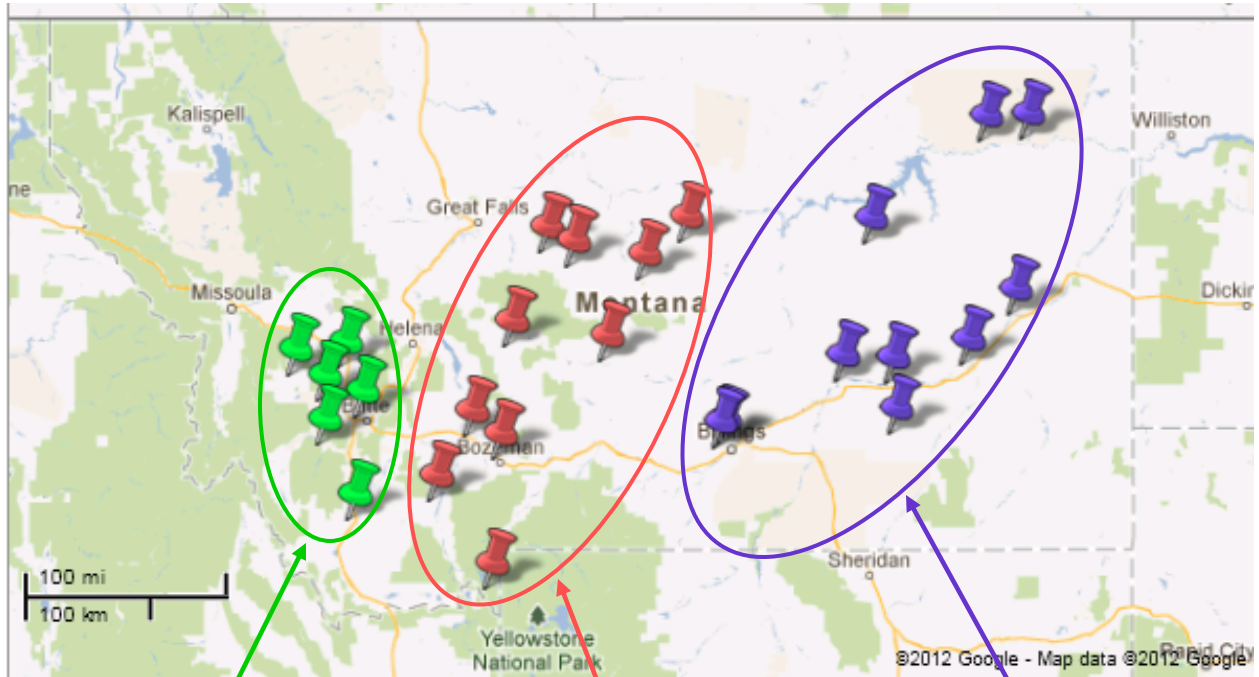
- a. Refining the choices. Settling on the Cluster model (now Covenant Order, or CO's
- b. A graphic diagram of the CO model for presbytery was introduced.
- c. Further refining of concepts, such as the Role of the Leadership Cabinet and its make-up were discussed.

6. October – Meeting 2:

- a. We discussed in detail the digital diagram of the presbytery.
- b. We discussed a format for our presentation to you, attempting to anticipate questions while looking to you for guidance.
- c. Decision to recommend a CO/Cluster-based structure for the presbytery
- d. Refining of the timeline for inputting, drafting, implementation and evaluation.

Proposed assignment of Yellowstone churches to the the geographic branches

Green push pins: West Branch Covenant Order
 Red push pins: North-South Branch Covenant Order
 Purple push pins: East Branch Covenant Order













**West Branch
Covenant Order**

**North-South Branch
Covenant Order**

**East Branch
Covenant Order**

-
-  Anaconda
 -  Big Hole
 -  Butte
 -  Deer Lodge
 -  Dillon
 -  Phillipsburg

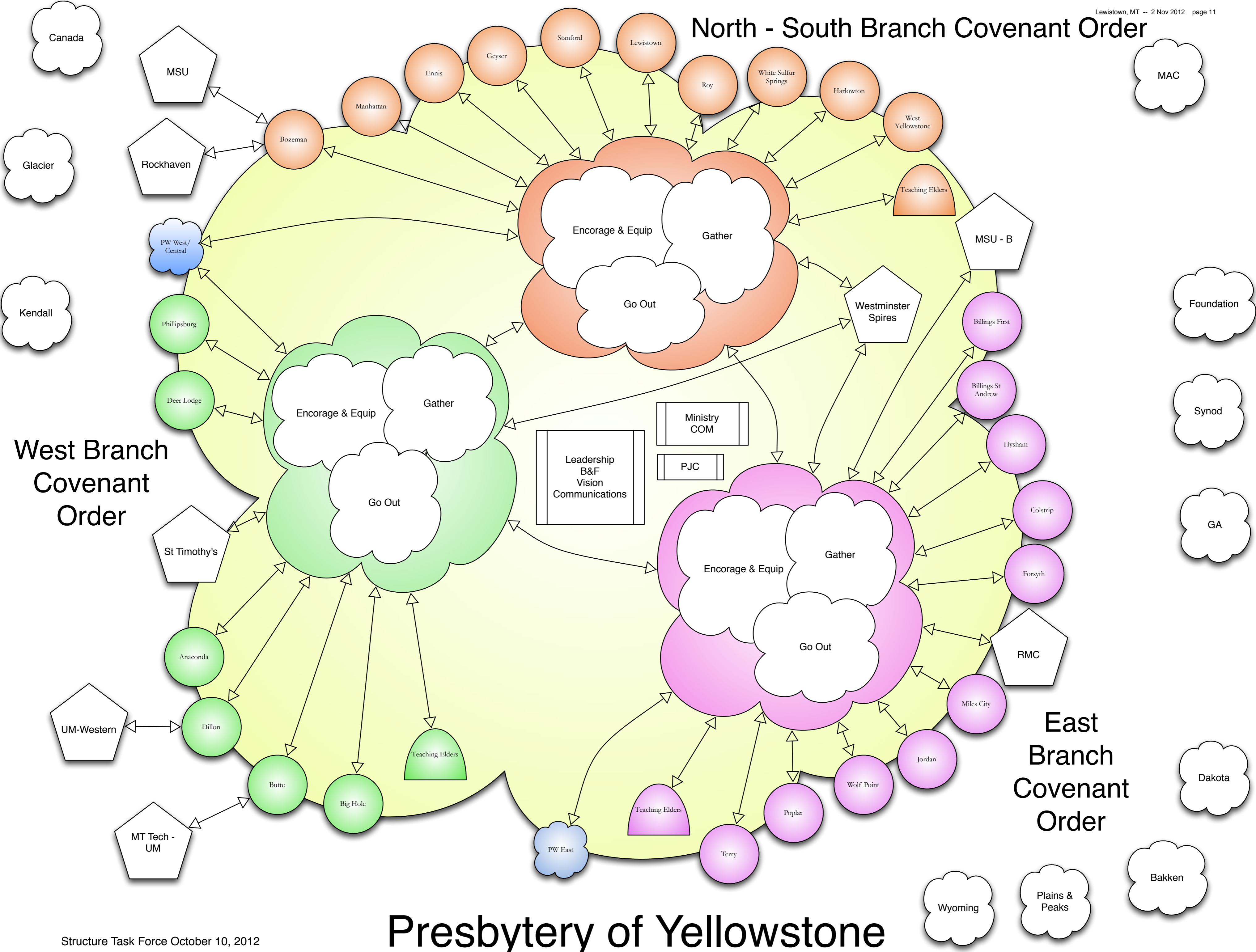
-
-  Bozeman
 -  Ennis
 -  Geyser
 -  Harlowton
 -  Lewistown
 -  Manhattan
 -  Roy
 -  Stanford
 -  West Yellowstone
 -  White Sulphur Springs

-
-  Billings, First
 -  Billings, St. Andrew
 -  Colstrip
 -  Forsyth
 -  Hysham
 -  Jordan
 -  Miles City
 -  Poplar
 -  Terry
 -  Wolf Point

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North - South Branch Covenant Order



West Branch Covenant Order

East Branch Covenant Order

Presbytery of Yellowstone

Proposed Time Line for Developing, Deciding Upon and Implementing a New Structure for Yellowstone Presbytery

April 2012	Structure TF\ (STF) established by the Leadership Cabinet.
May, 2012- Oct. 2012	Structure TF met 6 times to develop a new recommended structure.
Oct. 2012	Leadership Cabinet (LC) briefed on the work of the STF and a proposal for a new structure and provided comments on the proposal.
Oct. 2012 – Nov. 2012	STF adjusts their proposed structure based on input from the LC.
Nov. 2012	STF presents, to the presbytery, a proposed new structure and receives input from the presbytery.
Nov. 2012 – Feb. 2013	STF works on incorporating the comments of the presbytery and revising the Standing Rules.
Feb. 2013	STF presents its final proposal of a new structure to Leadership Cabinet & then the presbytery and first reading of changes to the Standing Rules.
May 2013	Presbytery votes on new structure. Second reading, and vote, on the changes to the Standing Rules. STF dismissed with thanks.
June – Dec. 2013	Work on transitioning to the new structure. All units of the presbytery and all Covenant Orders are involved in this work. December STF dismissed with thanks.
Jan. 2014	New structure is operational.
June 2014	Six month evaluation of new structure by Leadership Cabinet and suggestions for adjustments presented to presbytery.
Jan. 2015	One year evaluation of new structure by Leadership Cabinet and suggestions for adjustments presented to presbytery.

Presbytery Discussion - Questions For Feedback to Vision Structure Team

- a. How does the presented Structure appear to support implementation of the presbytery vision statement?

- b. What is your general impression of the proposed structure at this time? Why?

- c. What clarifying questions do you want answered?

- d. What appear to be the strengths of the proposed structure?

Is there one strength which is most appealing / convincing? What?

- e. What may be weaknesses of the proposed structure?

Is there any real "deal breaker" here? What?

- f. Suggestions for improvement?