

**Living the Vision - Yellowstone Presbytery
February 2010 Meeting**

*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.*

"When we have a vision, it does not necessarily mean that we have a plan. We may know where we want to be, but we will seldom know the actual steps we must take to get there. We must trust in ourselves to learn the way, to build the bridge as we walk on it. *Deep* change is an extensive learning process. When we pursue our vision, we must believe that we have enough courage and confidence in ourselves to reach our goal. We must leap into the chasm of uncertainty and strive bravely ahead."

Robert Quinn in Deep Change

"Andness"

"You think because you understand one, you must understand two, because one and one makes two. But you must also understand *and*." *Ancient Sufi teaching* (Tinker Toys to illustrate)

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body." *1 Corinthians 12: 12*

Constancy and Artistry

John Kao, in his book Jamming, suggests that organizations need to maintain a tension between constancy and artistry as they grow. Too much constancy and not enough artistry can lead to stagnation and boredom. Too much artistry without a foundation of constancy can lead to chaos. Listen to Dave Brubeck's Take Five to see this illustrated through music.

Constancy	<i>in tension with</i>	Artistry
Established (Traditional and status quo)	<i>in tension with</i>	New (Different)
Form	<i>in tension with</i>	Drive for Openness
Critical norms and standards	<i>in tension with</i>	Lure of the Unknown
Security	<i>in tension with</i>	Freedom
Discipline	<i>in tension with</i>	Persistent experimentation
Expertise	<i>in tension with</i>	Freshness

Purpose and Meaning

"The problem is that we must learn to distinguish between purpose and meaning in life....Purpose has something to do with being productive and setting goals and knowing what needs to be done and doing it. It is easy to have purpose. To write seven letters today, to wax that floor, to finish this legal brief, to make out those reports, to complete this degree, that's purpose. Meaning on the other hand, depends on my asking who will care and who will profit and who will be touched and who will be forgotten or hurt or affected by my doing those things. Purpose determines what I will do with my life. Meaning demands to know why I'm doing it and with what global results." *Joan Chittister in Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*

As we Gather Together, Equip and Encourage, and Go Out, as disciples joining Christ in Christ's mission, we will be strengthened by understanding and practicing the "andness" that brings us together; we will grow as we strive to maintain a dynamic tension between constancy and artistry, and we will be enriched and embody our vision as we focus both on purpose and meaning in our individual and corporate lives.

Constancy and Artistry



Maintaining a tension between the following points provides opportunities for dynamic and focused growth for an individual or an organization. Take a look at each of the following couplets.



What do you need more of in your personal life - constancy or artistry, etc.?



What do you need more of in the life of your congregation?


What does Yellowstone Presbytery need more of as we move into God's future?



Why? How?



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