

## Vision Structure Team Report to Presbytery, February 2013

Introductory Statement: The Prophet Isaiah in transitional times promised, “[God] will be a sure foundation for your times – a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge. And the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.” Isaiah 33:6. Leaning into God, seeking to be “guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer,” we offer our current thinking and suggestions to date...

Goals of our Vision Structure Process: To draft a structure and a process for implementation...

- A. ...Which fulfill and advance the Vision Statement.
- B. ...Which present a simplified presbytery structure, responsibilities.
- C. ...Which recognize and support the presbytery congregations as the primary agents of mission.
- D. ...Which foster deeper, personal relationships as well as partnerships.
- E. ...Which provide more flexibility, and opportunity for ministry and mission to emerge from churches up.
- F. ...Which address the presbytery’s financial trends and needs.

Towards fulfilling these ends, we recommend that some restructuring be made in the Presbytery and Leadership Cabinet. Changes, guided by the Leader Cabinet and the Vision Structure Team, should be allowed to grow “organically” to accommodate emerging, visions, passions, and Holy Spirit-leading of the proposed Three Branches/Covenant Orders we are proposing for the presbytery.

We propose a Structure and Process to the Presbytery and Leadership Cabinet which affirms and recognizes four inter-connected components of ministry:

- A. The Local Congregations, the primary agents of mission in their regions and communities.
- B. Three Covenant Communities comprised of congregations, ministries, and leaders in partnership by region for the encouraging and nurturing of congregations and relationships, for equipping of churches for ministry, and for moving out together in mission.
- C. The Leadership Cabinet – the Keepers of the Vision with some administrative responsibilities.
- D. The Presbytery as the over-arching and connective Body for regional mission – in support of congregations, teaching elders, Covenant Communities, the Leadership Cabinet.

Transitioning to a New Structure: The Visioning process of the last five years has been successful to the degree that it has been and open and organic process... We have, in developing the Vision, actually changed many of our practices, deepened relationships and partnerships, and seen an emergence of new processes. We, therefore ask the Leadership Cabinet and the Presbytery to follow the same process as it restructures - To transition the mission of the presbytery from a top-down, corporate-based structure to a structure which is more free-form and adaptable, and empowers us to be more open to and guided by the Holy Spirit to bring forth mission within local churches and within groups of congregations and leaders as the passion, vision, and commitment grow. Basically, the Leadership Cabinet and the Presbytery provide the strong trunk like that of a cottonwood tree. The growing branches are the covenant communities, which serve the individual smaller branches, namely the pastors and churches.

February 20, 2013