

Why Do we Need to Restructure the Presbytery???

Our Vision: 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.

Rationale for a Strategic Vision-serving Restructuring of the Presbytery:

1. *The presbytery has adopted a new vision statement for our mission and ministry in our shifting culture. A new structure is needed to provide a vehicle for ministry and mission in today's realities. We do not believe that the current structure serves the vision adequately. Our committee model is outdated, and too many committees need too many people to fill them. The structure needs simplification at the least and a radical reframing to fit the new vision at the most.*
2. *The PC (USA) has recently adopted a new constitution which encourages new forms of structure for fresh creativity and more autonomy in each church and presbytery context. Drafting new structures is encouraged by the larger Church.*
3. *The Presbytery has already begun to alter its practices, its relationships and partnerships and its processes to support the Vision. Now it is time to carefully, strategically and creatively address a new structure, while seeking to preserve the best of our traditions and practices.*
4. *The current structure is no longer financially sustainable. In 2012 we projected a deficit of \$26,000; in 2013 we expect a deficit of over \$40,000. And in 2014, of about \$80,000. The reasons:*
 - 1) A decrease in per capita to the Presbytery as populations and memberships shrink in many counties of Montana; partnership funds from the PCUSA which were \$75,000 in 2004 have been decreasing steadily and will be -\$0- in 2014.
 - 2) Creative structuring and creative funding is needed.
 - 3) Money follows vision, mission and ministry, and people.

5. *The Presbytery is all of us.* Every leader and member in every church. The Holy Spirit desires to strengthen, speak to and work through every one of us. Ideas, new ministries, new mission can come through any one of us at any time. A new structure is needed to provide for a freer flow and initiation of ministry and to equip and empower more of our Montana Presbyterians.

6. *Specifically, we hope to implement a new structure which will:*
 - a. *Grant greater freedom, flexibility & responsibility for decision-making and mission initiation* to the local churches and to gatherings of local churches, leaders and members in the regions of the presbytery.
 - b. *Increase connectional relationships and partnerships* – building community - between churches and leaders in the churches in each region.
 - c. *Increase the interest and participation of lay and clergy and particularly of younger Presbyterians* in our churches.
 - d. *Increase the opportunities for the disciple-making and mission-pursuing* in our local congregations and in groups of congregations, per our Vision Statement
 - e. *Be financially sustainable in common sense and faith.*

February 20, 2013 Version 5