

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 1

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: John Howard

Group: 4 elders, 1 pastor, 1 deacon

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

- Providing guidance and resources
- Support and nurture individual congregations and their pastors
- Proclaiming good news – provide guidance and encouragement
- Support and prepare Inquirers to become Candidates for Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement

- Joy
- Supporting individual churches
- Recognizing individual churches
- Proclaiming good news of Jesus Christ here on earth so that we should all be one
- Partnering
- Cooperation

Who does the presbytery serve?

Individual churches and pastor

Synod and GA (financially and delegates)

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

#2 and #4

Wording to consider for a purpose statement

The purpose of Elizabeth Presbytery is to maintain the Presbyterian structure to support local churches and to provide guidance, encourage the discipleship process, and strengthen the faith of all members.

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group #2

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Cynthia Cochran-Carney

Group (not including group leader) : 3 elders and 4 pastors

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

- Be realistic, do not create vision that is beyond actual energies of a presbytery
- Oriented toward congregations.
- Presbytery should support congregations. Perception that in the past, congregations supported the presbytery.
- Important to equip leaders (example Jan. 21 event at Princeton – that is exactly what is needed)

Words to describe purpose of the presbytery- how it could be, a vision

- equipping - *feet on the ground*
- empowering – *spiritual*
- Being - working as the Body of Christ
- Energy - comes from creative tension and struggling with questions and issues
- Celebrate
- Enriching
- Camaraderie and fellowship - comes from sharing a meal. Time to converse
- participate in what God is already doing

Who does the presbytery serve?

- All the leaders – elders and pastors
- modeling ways we serve each other as we serve as followers of Christ

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

- #3 – who we are, working together, our identity
- #1 – although the word “transformation” may be too goal oriented, too much like marching orders
 - Need to heal
 - Participate in what God is doing
 - Discerning
 - Need formation (speakers bureau type list for adult ed classes, sharing resources)

Wording to consider for a purpose statement

The presbytery provides a space where people can engage their passions as they live their faith

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 3

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Alan Ford

Group:

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

- More transparent
- Reach beyond the local church – go outside the walls
- Help congregations move out from comfort zone, outside 4 walls, to other persons and communities
- Proactive
- More able to tell what is being done to engage congregations
- Communications about missions and mission opportunities
- Support of change in generations – sessions may resist change and youth need change
- Help churches be more realistic (such as per capita, use of savings)
- UNDERLYING OUTREACH INTO SURROUNDING UNCHURCHED AREAS. Outside the 4 walls of our local church comfort zone.....other persons; communities
- Messages conveyed by our words should reflect in our deeds, especially handling money.
- PRESBYTERY MUST ESTABLISH THIS ATMOSPHERE WITH LOCAL CHURCHES
(Pastors and Sessions initially; then Congregations)
- CULTIVATE new missions opportunities and other forms of outreach “beyond our 4 walls”.
- ADOPT & UPDATE changes that enlist & attract both older/younger generation support.
- PROVIDE better info and communication vehicles among groups, on a 21st century basis.

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement

- Mutual support
- Encouragement
- Proactive
- Build trust (between presbytery and congregations)
- Assist
- Engage
- Cultivate new missions
- Outreach

Who does the presbytery serve?

Jesus Christ
Individual congregations
Pastors
General Assembly
Specialized Ministers
Clerks of Session
Treasurers of churches
Christian Educators
Candidates and Inquirers
Mission organizations

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

#1 – equip, liked strong words, liked “bold”
#2 - liked strong words, healthy and vital
#3 – equip, maybe too basic, weaker than #2

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 4

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Group: 4 elders, 1 pastor

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

- Presbytery is to help local churches make disciples.
- God is not in a box, we are a living witness to this.
- Presbytery should not be understood as our primary understanding as the body of Christ
- Not institutional maintenance—but existing for Christ. Not limited to the presbytery but at its best the Presbytery can feel like the body of Christ
- Important for the task force to not “scapegoat” and try to manage the stressors via this system.

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement

- Simple. No more than one sentence. Able to be memorized in one night.
- Make it decidedly Christian.
- Foundation: Great Commission and the Great Commandment.
- Need our vision of who we are before the vision statement.
- Nurture Congregations in the Word of God
- Oversee the work of the churches, presbytery is for oversight
- Presbytery as a community of churches. Very diverse so cannot fit into one box.
 - All celebrate, glorify, gives us power to work in our individual congregations
- Support of clusters
- Supporting work for the kingdom of God—action and word.
- Tough love part of the Presbytery, there are disciplinary elements.
- Look at our strengths and let the statement lead from there—where we really see the Spirit at work.
- Unifying member churches into core beliefs. Maintaining Christ-based foundation—scriptural
- Sense of community. There is diversity among us
- Presbytery as a network—built around the Spirit as its core
- Egalitarian
- Disney’s is “bring people joy.” Avoid too many words

Who does the presbytery serve?

congregations

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

- Make it something like the things Rick Warren uses
- These on the sheet could be any church anywhere. How do we know they are Presbyterian?

Wording to consider for a purpose statement

- Strengthening and equipping our diversity in Christ
- Support and encourage our congregations as we fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 5

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Barbara McLaughlan

Group: 3 elders, 1 pastor

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

The Presbytery should

promote evangelism and church growth
commit to help the churches and follow through
gather the churches together
equip and train congregations
provide pastoral leadership.

The Presbytery needs to

nurture teaching elders and congregations
do marketing and outreach to attract new members to the churches
provide encouragement to the congregations
grow groups to witness to Jesus Christ.

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement

Commitment

Nurture

Encourage

Support with the Holy Spirit

Visions of Christ's Church

Holy Spirit

Triune God

Who does the presbytery serve?

Congregations

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

#4 - like the parallelism -without preamble – tighten it up – also liked format

Wording to consider for a purpose statement

The Elizabeth Presbytery is committed to supporting our local churches in spreading, sharing and living out the word of the triune God through prayerful guidance.

To glorify our triune God in all we are, in all we do, and all we can be.

Commit to nurture, encourage, build, grow seeking prayerful guidance from the Holy Spirit to continue the work of the Triune God.

Ongoing and always absolute commitment to support the mission of the churches in implementing

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 6

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Jack Paddon

Group:

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

PRESBYTERY SHOULD DEFINE QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE, GROWING CHURCHES

WORKING outside 4 walls of a local church comfort zone; to other persons; communities.

ADOPT & UPDATE changes IN WORSHIP, suitable for both older/younger generations.

PROVIDE better info & communications vehicles among groups, on a 21st century basis.

CELEBRATE JOYFULLY the diversity of backgrounds, under a Presbyterian umbrella.

(i.e., Identifying what brings us together, rather than causing division and conflict)

ASSIST small churches via "Clusters", Joint Ventures and similar creative ideas.

PRESBYTERY MUST IMPLEMENT THIS ATMOSPHERE IN LOCAL CHURCHES

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement

ENGAGE;

EMPOWER;

ENCOURAGE;

ENTHUSIASM;

ENLIST;

ATTRACT;

MUTUALLY SUPPORTING (AS FAMILY);

BUILDING TRUST; SELF EXAMINATION;

LORDSHIP OF CHRIST;

AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE;

COMMITMENT;

VIBRANT;

APPEALING

Who does the presbytery serve?

Pastors and Sessions must be our primary "Clients", to effectively involve and engage a Congregation

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 7

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Nancy Asbury

Group

Reflections on what the presbytery could be and critiques

- Important part in Presbytery's mission is fiduciary—but not merely a budget.
- Do not be narrowly focused. We are not beholden to presbytery for existence
- Presbytery should be there to support churches
- Important to have ownership of missions we support through presbytery – not just a budget – sister congregations
- Need structural changes to undergird the words of purpose statement
- Help pastors and leaders build skills needed in 21st century ministry
- Encourage new ways of being church
- Support all sizes of churches “cowntowns” to large suburban and urban
- Value gifts of all people and churches

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement

- Creative ministries
- Risk taking
- New things
- Not being afraid – take risks for God's mission
- Diversity
- Willing to celebrate “failures” and risking new ideas for sake of the gospel
- Foster partnerships
- Shared leadership – team work
- Connectional
- We go out – outside the church building

Who does the presbytery serve?

Churches

Leaders

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

none suggested

Wording to consider for a purpose statement

The words in our purpose statement should match (undergird) our actions & activities, as newly updated within an emerging 21st century structure;

Presbytery Purpose Statement Breakout Group Notes Group # 8

Nov. 22, 2011

Leader: Skip Winter

Group: 3 elders, 1 pastor

Words to describe purpose of presbytery and Purpose Statement (bold are top 3)

1 – organizing, dismissing, dissolving

2 – governing

3 – connecting

4 – supporting

5 – overseeing/shepherding

6 – responsibilities to churches, pastors and congregations

7 – service/servant

8 – resources

9 – provide direction

10 – promote peace and harmony

11 – responsibilities to teaching elders

Who does the presbytery serve?

The Presbytery serves God #1 (Proclaiming the Kingdom of God)

Congregations and Teaching Elders

Which of the 5 sample statements spoke to the group?

#3 top choice by group

