

**Report to Presbytery  
November 22, 2011  
Mission Study Task Force**

The Mission Study Task Force has the responsibility to draft a mission study document and create a mission design for Elizabeth Presbytery. Using the data and first draft of the Mission Study written by our Interim Executive Presbytery Rev. Greg Albert as our starting point, we want the process of creating the final mission study and design to provide numerous opportunities for your input. Our challenge, collectively, is to ensure that the mission study represents God's call to all the participants in the presbytery.

**Role of Presbytery Members throughout Process**

**All Pastors:** Pray for our collective discernment of God's plan for the Elizabeth Presbytery; Attend and contribute to Presbytery discussions of Mission Study; Share ideas from other Presbyteries.

**Serving Pastors:** Communicate to Session and Congregation the importance of effort as well as process, content and status; Encourage input.

**Presbytery Commissioners:** Pray for our collective discernment of God's plan for the Elizabeth Presbytery; Solicit input from Session and Congregation in preparation for discussions; Attend and contribute to Presbytery discussion of the Mission Study; Provide feedback to Session and Congregation on process, content and status of Mission Study; Encourage input.

**Sessions:** Pray for our collective discernment of God's plan for the Elizabeth Presbytery; Dialogue with Congregation on process, content and status of Mission Study; Provide feedback to Task Force.

We meet weekly, so please contact any of the members of the Task Force in written form with your thoughts and input about the process, the mission study and design. Emails are listed below.

Members of the Mission Study Task Force

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Tentative Timeline – Discussions at Presbytery Meetings (Gatherings)

November 22, 2011	Purpose Statements
January 28, 2012	Vision and Core Values and assumptions
February 25, 2012	Saturday half day meeting – Mission Design Subject Groups Gatherings, Structure, Communications, Policies (legacy funds, etc), Staffing <i>All areas in light of financial resources</i>
March 27, 2012	Present new draft of Mission Study for review
May 22 or June 26, 2012	Vote on final Mission Study

**Samples of Current Presbytery Purpose/Mission Statements  
for discussion  
at gathering of Elizabeth Presbytery Nov. 22, 2011**

A Purpose Statement – one or two sentences to answer the question -  
In the PCUSA, what is the purpose of Elizabeth Presbytery?

- I. The Mission of the Presbytery of ----- is to enhance, equip and empower congregations and leaders to become bold servants of transformation for the glory of the Triune God."
- II. ----- Presbytery engages people's passions;  
builds partnerships;  
nurtures strong leadership;  
and creates healthy, vital communities of faith;  
all to the glory of God.
- III. "We are ----- Presbytery, a community of churches experiencing, enjoying, and sharing the love of Christ. We exist to equip and engage our congregations, working together to proclaim the Kingdom of God in word and deed."
- IV. Preamble - The presbytery of -----celebrates the good news of Jesus Christ and seeks to glorify and enjoy God and the myriad expressions of God's grace in its every assembly, deliberation, and action.  

The Mission of The Presbytery of ----- is to:  
\*Witness to renewed visions of Christ's Church at work in the world,  
seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit;  
\*Nurture pastors and those with whom they serve in congregations  
and other diversified ministries;  
\*Serve as steward of the gifts we have been given by encouraging  
congregations in mission and ministry.
- V. The Presbytery of ----- is a community of disciples that engages in worshipful work in order to further the missio dei (mission of God).

**From Book of Order 2011-2013**

**G-3.03 THE PRESBYTERY** *G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibilities*

The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).

In light of this charge, the presbytery has responsibility and power to:

**a. *provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.***

This responsibility shall include organizing, receiving, merging, dismissing, and dissolving congregations in consultation with their members; overseeing congregations without pastors; establishing pastoral relationships and dissolving them; guiding the preparation of those preparing to become teaching elders; establishing and maintaining those ecumenical relationships that will enlarge the life and mission of the church in its district; providing encouragement, guidance, and resources to congregations in the areas of mission, prophetic witness, leadership development, worship, evangelism, and responsible administration to the end that the church's witness to the love and grace of God may be heard in the world.

**b. *provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.***

This responsibility shall include authorizing the celebration of the Lord's Supper at its meetings at least annually and for fellowship groups, new church developments, and other non-congregational entities meeting within its bounds; authorizing and training specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament; and exercising pastoral care for the congregations and members of presbytery in order that the Sacraments may be received as a means of grace, and the presbytery may live in the unity represented in the Sacraments.

**c. *nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.***

This responsibility shall include ordaining, receiving, dismissing, installing, removing, and disciplining its members who are teaching elders; commissioning ruling elders to limited pastoral service; promoting the peace and harmony of congregations and inquiring into the sources of congregational discord; supporting congregations in developing the graces of generosity, stewardship, and service; assisting congregations in developing mission and participating in the mission of the whole church; taking jurisdiction over the members of dissolved congregations and granting transfers of their membership to other congregations; warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immorality in practice within in practice within its bounds; and serving in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline.

(underlining added)