

At the March 23, 2010 meeting of Elizabeth Presbytery, Interim Executive Presbyter Greg Albert shared his dream for the Presbytery in a sermon, "I Have a Dream, too." At the end of his sermon, he asked the congregants to write on one side of a card their dream for the Presbytery and on the other side their dream for their congregation. The responses were as follows, in no particular order.

Commissioners' Dreams for the Presbytery

- Put more emphasis on God's love and put the mechanical procedures in second place.
- That the Presbytery inspires and empowers congregations to do God's work here and in the world at large.
- That the Presbytery opens up and focus on Christ's mission of love, and helping others.
- To risk real repentance speak the truth in love.
- Churches working together to the glory of God.
- To bring Presbyterian churches in harmony with one another, each church with its own special gifts.
- That more churches reps can come to the meetings and be filled with God's love.
- Support and nurture of orphans.
- For more people to realize the importance in helping and reaching out to others, for many reasons people in crisis, financial, **personal, physical, the lonely/ elderly, all God's children.**
- That the Presbytery becomes less administrative, that it reaches out to all the churches encouraging mission. Without mission there is no reason for the church to exist.
- To pull together and unify the various congregations and shared resources to create vitality in all congregations.
- **Ephesians 4:12-16** (12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.)
- That His church would return to the supremacy of the Holy word of God as found in scriptures. Because faith, saving faith only comes in His word believed and not in the doctrines of men!
- That this Presbytery will be the link, facilitator, clearing house, mentor, cheerleader, foundation, and fellowship for the great commission.
- That we will work together and support each other. Many congregations are small and can benefit from working with others to have successes.
- Congregations sharing all that they are with each other.
- That we all might truly seek to bring God glory in all we do.
- Helping all churches to remember that Jesus is Lord and he is our leader toward a more perfect life.
- More direct connection with the congregations and their followers.
- A fellowship of pastors, brothers and sisters in arms, who know each other and care for and about each other.

- That the Presbytery would share ministers, motivate towns to share people to become one body to know each other that they may work together to do God's work in the world.
- To see more youth, young adult involvement in Presbytery. Bring back the youth connection.
- To be more connected to the individual churches.
- That the meetings were not so business focused, late at night when everyone is tired, but meetings during the day building spirituality vital leadership.
- Be more assertive in developing leadership at the congregational level.
- That the Presbytery become well known to congregations.
- To share resources and grow in grace. Reach out to the Young.
- That we may all be one in Christ. We come from "conservative" and "liberal"
- That this Presbytery be reconciled and work together in God's dream
- To share what each congregation is doing in their mission work.
- Together to make a difference in our community.
- That we might work together more and more to share God's love, God's grace, to help feed the hungry, house the homeless, help those in need...
- Congregations teaming up for mission efforts – in particular, pairing a small church with one of larger resources – to give small congregations more opportunities to do something on a large scale.
- That we will support each other, learn from each other, and pray for each other and our larger community.
- Presbytery needs to be more visible to the local church.
- To move into more cutting edge means of worship and outreach. To be more outward focused.
- Spread Jesus' mission.
- A Presbytery that works to help churches grow a mission outside.
- To find a way to be missional rather than a body trapped in structure, rules and restrictions.
- That churches would feel more connected and wishing to know members of other churches.
- That Elizabeth Presbytery will be seen as a source of coaching and support of tis congregations, a partner in outreach to the neighborhood and to the world.
- Communication: what is everyone doing – yes, we get e-mail things, but maybe have a minister trade a couple of times a year/ or adult education teacher "trade".
- A plan to sustain the work of the "church" despite the changing demographics from the daughter of a delegate to the 1957 General Assembly.
- That the Presbytery will grow larger and stronger.
- That our presence in our towns will be readily evident and that those watching will say "behold how they love each other".
- That it will continue to grow and reach those in need.
- Helping address immigrants' needs – also development projects for communities in crisis.
- More Presbytery mission events.
- Cease competing with each other and affirm each other's ministries and missions.

- Eliminate the bureaucracy and power grabbing. Open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's work even when it does not match our expectations. Embrace our communities together as partners to share God's love in word and deed.
- To be a united face that works together and helps all these churches be the best they can be.
- Personally – one – on – one community based. Community organizing training for evangelism.
- That this Presbytery will be open to mission and ministry to all in our communities.
- To have more youth programs- a chance for our kids to get to know each other.
- My Presbytery would listen. My presbytery would view its churches as a mission of love.
- A community of brothers and sisters in Christ who are friends, leaders, sharing ministry, worship, mission and vision of hope in Christ.
- A Presbytery where faith communities that risk trying different ways of being church are supported in their risk taking.
- To start at least two NCD's and Fellowships every year.
- That they will continue to follow Jesus as the only Lord and Savior and strive to go out into our world as they follow Him to make disciples and feed His lambs.
- That God pours His Holy Spirit over all of us. That we may proclaim His name. That we stop our incompetence and brake down this club house and turn it into the true church of Jesus Christ.
- That all the churches would see themselves as the connectional church and network with each other.
- Unify smaller congregations.
- Ability to seek God's will to do mission across theological issues.
- A group of people, a gathering of gatherings of people who seek and strive to follow Jesus Christ, sent out to bring healing and justice into the lives of people, especially the neediest.
- That we will hold ourselves accountable and take our work seriously.
- That meetings make sense and not be a waste of time – not just a pompous organized meeting where people give each other the cold shoulder.
- That congregations would be able to share with each other and help each other become better at spreading the Word of God.
- To become a unified bible based evangelical body of believers.
- I share your dream! This is where I want the Presbytery to head.
- Honor God's written word. Put Jesus first and nothing else equal. Honor Book of Order.
- To help a congregation when needed and not stonewall unpleasant situations.
- That we increase our support for our basic joint mission programs: E'port, new Church Developments, Johnsonburg, El Centro, etc. that Christ's love might shine in word and deed and people will know we care.
- That it can witness to God's love instead of God's judgment.
- Be more personally involved with the churches. Bring church families together making larger families – a oneness
- That different churches will work together and "SHARE" how they are doing kingdom work – we can learn from each other and other Christian churches.
- To respect elders and elders respect pastors – for relevance to our young people.

- That Presbytery would take a stand for sexual purity.
- To work enthusiastically, competently and with love to be Jesus here and now. To untie ourselves from trivia minutiae. To share “best practices”.
- I dream that we may all be one in Christ. We come from “conservative” and “liberal” persuasions we are one in Christ.
- Presbytery to share resources and grow in grace. Reach out to the young.
- To become well known to congregations.
- Be more assertive in developing leadership at the congregational level.
- More people must learn about our Presbytery and how important it is. I am just learning.
- More promotion mission in our doorstep. Reach at new immigrant. Bridge builder: To bring together very rich congregations (financially) and poor congregations.
- More participation from the 50 congregations.
- No more time spent in commissioners that do not take good to others. Do not spend money in things that is not taking the Word of God to others. That we make a commitment to the leases that we started.
- Build up, strengthen those many small churches. Also, continue to speak a message like we heard tonight that contrasts so powerfully with the loud criticism of those who do not understand Christianity.
- My dream for the Presbytery of Elizabeth is that they would dare to follow an outrageously, extravagant, gracious, and inclusive-including God.
- Like Matthew 25- When did we see you hungry or naked or in prison. Minister to those in real needs in our inner cities. It’s so obvious but we cover in fear. We need spiritual strength.
- That we will learn to to church in such a way that we are more spirit driven – more like the 1st C Church and less like the church under Constantine.
- More interchange work to further specific ministries.
- Unity of the Spirit for Mission- Equipping Pastors and Elders.
- Equipping and enabling disciples to equip and enable disciples to the last and the least.
- In all essentials, UNITY (Confessing outwardly, Christ as Lord, believing inwardly in the risen reality and presence). In non-essentials UNITY (This means acceptance, mutual respect, love without strings).
- A presbytery that serves its churches. We have started on this, and it needs to continue more. Continue to make grant money available to the churches.
- My dream is that Christians would move out of their comfort zones to reach out to others in the community both local and global and be Jesus heart, grace and hands- Many people within our boundaries need Jesus Christ and the care of fellowship. People are sick and dying churches forget about them.
- That the Presbytery continues to make a difference in people’s lives.
- United in sharing the whole gospel in the whole world- as the spirit leads strength congregations to do this.