

This was the list that Council came up with. It should interact with the ideas populated by “preferred future” that comes from the March Presbytery meeting. There are also “white papers” that are in draft format now around fellowships and questions SMI is asking about “mission partners” of Presbytery.

Below are the lists that came up on the wall from Council with general headers above them. The headers are not so important right now as they will shift and change and how we organize these probably also will.

Congregational Structure

- From institutional church with building to new communities of fellowships or house churches
- Create acceptance of new ways of being church and support them
- To be willing to try new ministries and be willing to fail
- Moving from “the church I’ve always known” to “the church that is yet to be” AND engaging in it
- Foster innovation
- Help churches transition
- Multi-ethnic, restart ministries, NWC, etc.
- Fellowship options for congregations (white paper, draft from Kate Kotfila), and look at fellowship models in other Presbyteries that work well
- Resource congregations

Mission

- To find ways to support congregations and pastors in the work of making disciples of Jesus
- A community of congregations actively involved in ministry and mission in our region
- Share success stories
- Rethink and restructure our mission giving
- Commit to and connect with the world beyond us—interfaith, SBNR
- Transition from mentality of only Presbyterian to collaboration of other denominations
- Develop cross congregational/denominational
- Development and attachment to a core missional purpose to guide the decision-making and work of the Presbytery—especially around addressing the incredible needs of poverty in this area
- Building congregational strength in dedication and numbers
- Designate our GA mission giving
- Continue to explore missional living
- Enable local churches (Presbyterian and other) to support each other in mission and to connect to engage in forms of mission that congregations are not currently sponsoring. Mission=glorifying God, preaching the Gospel, meeting human needs, pursuing justice

- Discerning the heart and core of what it is to PCUSA at this time and at the same time lightening up a bit and the need to be more accessible and user friendly Connect in the Synod, COM etc.

Foundational

- To become a “council” a decision-making, oversight body that utilizes discernment over parliamentary procedure
- Bring all we do (committees, spending) in line with our mission statement
- To deepen our understanding of the theological and ecclesiastical implications of missional living
- Add a time of confession and assurance of pardon to worship at presbytery meetings

Admin/Finances

- Learn to live within our means, which requires projecting which assets we will have and building on a sturdy financial structure
- Move to a system of pledges rather than basic and shared witness support
- Plan for the future of mission trip scholarships
- Managing smaller resources
- Dealing with money—income for churches, selling of properties, grants and loans, funds, peacemaking etc. and policies
- Establish a secure financial base for the presbytery
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Professionals

- Smart use of professionals
- Renewal and training for evangelism with emerging (yet unseen) communities and established communities in our midst. For this to be an ongoing, regular part of the life of the Presbytery and to address issues of race, class, privilege etc.

Presbytery Structure

- Connect to and find ways to creatively engage mission/ministry and governance with our local middle governing body partners PCUSA and otherwise
- Specific and clearer priorities for capital support
- Figure out how to better relate to TE’s and congregants
- Review the composition of Presbytery councils and committees to see what changes and improvements can be made
- Review and if necessary revise presbytery structure and staffing and bylaws
- Create a workable staff and structure
- Staffing patterns
- Foster innovation
- Help Churches transition
- Communication with congregations (strengthen bonds)