

Notes from July 17 Presbytery Meeting -- Appreciative Inquiry -- FROM THE FISHBOWL REPORTING OUT

Why Presbytery?

- Seeing and meeting new people
- We're better together
- Connection/hearing stories
- Shared Wisdom
- Sharing Resources
- Missional connection – images of a wheel with presbytery in the center, or a rudder keeping the boat going in a direction
- Quality control
- PYCC
- Encouragement and responsiveness in challenging times
- Challenging each other
- Accountability

How Does Presbytery Get In the Way?

- An unnecessary gatekeeper to outlying congregation
- So bureaucratic that it takes away from mission and purpose
- Doesn't educate enough – “we vs. them”
- Too centralized
- Drain on churches \$\$\$
- Not enough communication
- Call process takes too long
- Don't pay enough attention to places where voices are absent

Who are we when we are at our best?

- Joining together in mission and education
- Open discussion and problem solving
- Positive conversations in disagreement
- Peacekeeping
- Hopeful
- Church planting
- Sharing affirmations

What do we aspire to be?

- Younger

- More flexible
- Create clusters of interest
- Build lay leadership
- More faithful to the Word and always reforming
- Define ourselves as a beacon of the light of Christ
- Lovingly hold the differences, disagreements and tension we experience
- More conversation and relationship building in meetings
- Resources to each other (to build community)

How can we be better connected?

- Commissioners in worship
- Use modern technology (video conferencing during meetings)
- Utilize clusters
- Utilize social media and update the website
- Joint training (in clusters)
- Merging youth groups
- Pass Tuesday Connect along to congregation
- Structure to encourage face to face interaction

How do we structure and organize to better do our work?

- Take presbytery resources OUT to congregations
- Rethinking how we use the presbytery office building
- Be more intentionally inclusive
- Ensure all churches have access to the bureaucracy
- Have active and inactive task groups rather than committees that twiddle their thumbs
- Use more technology
- Be more grassroots and not top-heavy
- Utilize clusters (after ensuring that they function)
- Mutual understanding that presbytery supports churches

What are YOU willing to do to make presbytery more effective?

- Utilize leadership training
- Take the initiative to report between churches and presbytery
- Pray
- Work hard
- Affirm more than criticize
- Recognize that ONE person can make a big impact

- Build lay leadership
- Continue to support PYCC
- Consider saying “YES”, not “NO”
- Encouraging, naming and seeking out strong leaders and help them develop their gifts
- Ask people!
- Humility and openness to the Spirit
- You don’t have to be an elder to serve