



Walking the Paths of Change Together; A Day of Discernment

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These sheets are answers to the questions:

1. What, if anything, might a regional structure do to support & enhance these ministries/missions?

Communication

- a. From synod to others
- b. From pastors, presbyteries to synod
- c. And back and forth
- d. PUSH communication

Clearinghouse for

- e. Ideas & Resources & Sharing & Encouragement

Help churches engage in joint service we can't do alone

- f. Ministry – Mission – Evangelism

Help us be more ecumenical in our work

Regional Structure – New Possibilities

Organic/grassroots effort

New form of government

- Flexible structure
- Open-mindedness
- Missional
- Being effective and relevant where we are

Resources-use of synod endowment

Michigan/Ohio due to interstate systems (e.g. I-75) is high area for human trafficking!

- Recommend problem be addressed by regional (i.e. synod) body (e.g. regional PW)
- National PW has resource kit and dollars
- Education of leaders
- Use CMX

Promoting communication between churches/presbyteries

Pooling of resources

Regional Structure....

Both/And....

Geographic boundaries & facilitate more fluid, organic connections between presbyteries and/or congregations and/or mission structures/groups – even collaboration w/potential partners outside PC(USA)

2. What would it look like? (using adverbs, adjectives, etc)

Network of networks facilitated by synod

- a. i.e – clusters of small churches meeting needs (e.g. urban & rural churches)
- b. i.e. – migrant missions

Coaching

Facilitating

Broker rather than holder of resources

Resource, referral and information services

Sharing successes and needs

Effective communication

Building relationships and networks

Sharing

- resource centers
- outdoor education
- personnel
- facilities

Processes rather than structures

Planting & scattering seeds

Invite others to glean from our gardens

SYNOD SUPPORT OF RACIAL/ETHNIC MINISTRIES

- connectional opportunities/financial (Detroit Presbytery prison program, housing)

EXPAND AWARENESS

- resources, other active ministries (educate leaders, website)

MOBILE HEALTH FAIR

- leadership, collaboration, effectiveness (great example of met need)

CAMPING – necessity for networking (congregations cannot support individually)

MISSION TRIPS, YOUTH PROGRAMS, RETREATS for SMALL CHURCHES especially

DEV. OF ELDER ASSEMBLIES

- maintenance, money, ministry, mission (Mackinac Presbytery)

Permission giving-relationships

Gift affirming

Share ideas – receiving openly and giving openly

Trusting one another

Cross fertilization of programs

Connecting with each other

NEEDED from Synod:

- FLEXIBILITY
- RESPONSIVE
- AWARENESS of what is happening on church level
- WILLINGNESS to connect people
 - e.g. Stephen Ministry, VS, Justice program, worship technology, new ideas

Virtual “structure”

Shared Presbytery staff

Merging/blending congregations

3. What resources might it share?

Dissemination

- all the way to pews, commissioners may not be enough
- social network

Connections

- evangelism info to congregational evangelism person

Share idea

- creative funding
- creative mission ideas

Discovery of interest parties list for more effective information dissemination.

How?

Time, talent – items or dollars

Relationships are our resources

Staff Resource people

Add Leadership Development as a 4th priority for Synod.

Communication (beyond the bulletin insert)

- electronic media savvy – social media skills

Training on available resources

Encouraging/resource presbyteries to have coordinate gatherings (physical & virtual) with purpose beyond maintenance

Continued funding/expanding –developing financial resources.

Continuation of CECA (Cabinet on Ethnic Church Affairs)

NEXT STEPS

- NEED TO SEE ALL INFO

- WHAT'S OUR STORY? Faith Story
- NEED TO ENLARGE CONVERSATION
- PURPOSE? What in business for, mission statement
- WHAT'S THE VALUE OF CONNECTIONAL CHURCH?
- STAKEHOLDERS – presbyteries-variety
- POSSIBLE REALIGN PRESBYTERIES?
 - Questions together
- DO WE NEED PHYSICAL BUILDINGS?
- FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION
- BRING LAURIE BACK
- SYNOD COULD BE CENTER FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PRESBYTERIES

4. What new exciting faithful flourishing ministries/missions do you see in your congregation/presbytery?

What made them happen?

Attitudes

Resources

Gifts

Talents

We tried to organize this by presbytery

Presbytery of Cincinnati

- Clusters of churches, especially in rural areas, are getting together, asking-What does God want of us?
- Interfaith Hospitality Network in several presbyteries-some presbyteries doing it on their own.
- Heritage Presbyterian Church – Young Children's Mission
 - New children's ministry director
 - 1st thru 5th grad
 - Assemble boxes for Ronald McDonald House
- Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church-Church Redevelopment
 - 6 churches involved
 - Pastor who went to a redevelopment training got it started

Presbytery of Detroit

- Human Trafficking-Detroit Presbytery-placing clergy in centers to help
 - Toledo 4th in U.S.
 - Spiritual Care and Ed. Center put CPE students in center with raised awareness
 - Poor children abducted starting at age 3 but most teenagers really sexually assaulted
 - Transportation routes make as vulnerable
 - Needs to be synod wide mission
 - Multi racial issue
- Detroit Presbytery did at a separate event-intentionally included variety of ethnic backgrounds in planning team & including their practices
 - Common commitment to Christ
 - Need a commitment to stay together even though we are different
- BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS
 - Angel Touch Program – children of incarcerated
Housing for Homeless
- Rochester Presbyterian Church-Agape Youth Ministry & Traveling Choir
 - Determined individuals create ministries that wouldn't happen otherwise
 - Staff supported and celebrated

Presbytery of Eastminster

- COUNCIL BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
 - Desire to resource congregations more effectively
 - 3 year program: annual visits with sessions
 - No cost!
- Akron Firestone Presbyterian Church- resources Acts 16:5
 - Adopted school-buys hats, gloves, etc. for all who need next school supplies, next teacher supplies, now uniforms so kids grow up knowing churches help.
 - Changing neighborhood-church changes or dies
- Niles First Presbyterian Church → adopted rundown apartment complex & then mobile home park → residents now members/church leaders
 - A member who saw a need and acted

- Common Ground NCD/Goodness Grows → bought an old plant nursery & transformed it into worship space & urban farming training center
 - A question → what would God have us do with this property
- Kent Presbyterian Church → New college dorm being built with blessing of Kent State
 - Opportunity → shortage of housing

Presbytery of Lake Huron

- WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (LOCAL PW)
 - Second Mile Ministry
 - Diversity
 - Inter-Presbytery mission
 - PW gathering
- Clusters of churches, especially in rural areas, are getting together, asking- What does God want of us?
- One congregation in downtown area saw need to serve people there-from homeless to working poor, etc.- created "Celebrate the Vision"- Wed. nights-meal, worship, bible study – grew from 20 to 100- church members participate- now all treat one another as neighbors
- It's hard to communicate the value of connectivity to the people in the pews. They see it as bureaucratic waste of money- Lake Huron
- Fairgrove Presbyterian Church – Youth Ministry in rural community
 - Key family – gift of time and energy
 - Supplies meal-sharing – caring
 - Emphasis – love – attention – respect – communication
- MERGING OF CULTURES TO WORK TOGETHER
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
 - Intergenerational

Presbytery of Lake Michigan

- Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church- has begun ministering to a homeless shelter-participants went from 20 to 100
- African immigrant ministry – fostering a common fellowship, resource center
 - Key person arrived to begin it.
 - A move to value the tradition of immigrants
 - A move to assimilate & respect

- COLLABORATIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION
 - “Friends among colleagues”

Presbytery of Mackinac

- MINISTRY GRANTS FOR CHURCH MISSION
 - Leftover salary
 - Leadership & vision in congregations
- ELDER ASSEMBLIES (Mackinac)
 - No/limited cost!!
 - Developing networks
- Local, chaplain-led campus ministry board changed to being support for student led program. Is now thriving. Volunteer faculty helping a lot. Doing more program at less cost.- Northern Michigan college
- Small presbytery grants to fund new ministries in and through local churches in their communities
 - 6 or 7 a year
 - Vision → encouraging churches to think outside the box!
- Traverse City Presbyterian Church
 - A congregation on mission → local, national, and international
 - i. Pastor/session leadership set in motion
 - Mission Initiative Grants
 - i. Alpena Presbyterian Church Free Clinic – medical care to uninsured. Congregation willing to share a building & a minister, community volunteers, physicians/nursing, Pas, clerical hospital cooperation
 - ii. Newberry Presbyterian Church- Community Garden
- First Presbyterian at Elk Rapids-130 at VBS
 - 1/4 unchurched

Community outreach & evangelism
Dinner to low income housing
CE collaborated with Spiritual Outreach Committee
- Churches in resort areas
- Theology Pubs
- EXPANDING “DEACON” WORK TO ALL – Mackinac
- Rudyard Presbyterian Church – Food Pantry
 - Angel Free Store (food & clothing)
 - Work groups for youth to serve

- Youth leader and kids have energy and interest
- Congregation and presbytery support
- Rogers City – Food Pantry
 - Growing, thriving, much needed
 - Church provides resources
- COPPER COUNTRY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
 - People in poverty who were not welcomed in other churches and needs not met
 - Vision of one woman – came to presbytery, presbytery trained as CLP and gave funds
 - Fellowship & store that provides food, clothing, housewares

Presbytery of Maumee Valley

- Every Sunday 1st Findlay church provides meal to anyone who comes
 - 5 churches
 - Variety of meal levels
 - Promote at food pantry
 - 70 to start 4 years ago, 250-300 today
 - How can participants be able to do something to help others-prepare kits?
 - Toby Jones book focus on doing in the community
- Presbyteries are training CLPs who will serve needy churches. Sometimes CLPs are better trained than seminary graduates to serve real needs in real churches.
- Small churches networking together to foster youth and adult ministries
 - Necessity/ long term leadership made it happen!
 - Spousal \$ support allows small church leadership to stay
- Mt. Sinai Hispanic NCD
 - Migrant Farmworkers/church closing combined to make it happen
 - Presbytery/synod matching grant to repair manse
 - Over \$25k raised
 - Individual initiative set it in motion
- “Sacred conversations”
 - Clergy gatherings 5 times a year
 - Mutual support, prayer, study, season preparation
- First Presbyterian Adrian MI - NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM

- Building ramps for anyone in the community that needs one
- Serving people
- **First Presbyterian Adrian MI - MEN'S MISSION GROUP**
 - A few decided to do something ...and it grew...and grew
 - Provide \$ utilities, rent, food
 - Christmas for families
 - Provide for needs of homeless kids

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

- **CAMPUS MINISTRY NETWORK**
 - Cared about Campus Ministry
 - Presbytery
 - Synod
- **SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE GRANTS (Western Reserve)**
 - Good leadership
 - Timely: Urban Gardening!
 - Presbytery, Synod, GA
- **CAMP REJOICE – Miami Valley**
 - For kids at Kirkmont
 - Reputation, fun

Presbytery of the Scioto Valley

- Transition time – hope for the future
 - Stayed tuned to this channel!
- **Bethany Presbyterian Church - DEACON'S MINISTRY**
 - Members with a vision made a committed decision
 - Provide financial support for all
 - Saturday lunch ministry – full course meal for 100!
 - Congregations donations
 - Community gardens
 - Ghanaian congregation growing & thriving (received \$300,000 loan which we repaid in one year!)
- **CROSS CONGREGATIONAL MISSION OUTREACH**
 - Churches do mission trips together
 - 1/3 churches participate
- **OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM**

Presbytery of the Western Reserve

- Vital Congregations Network
 - Shift in focus from resourcing “hospice” congregations to healthy congregations
 - Necessity/Vision made it happen
- Glenville Community – inner city youth
 - Growth as friends invited friends and introduced them to “salvation story” and they passed it further
 - Liturgical Dance/Youth Choir
 - Reaching out to new generation
- SMALL CHURCHES INVOLVED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE
 - Meals, IHN, Education, etc.
 - Connectional Church – Presbytery encouraged
- PARTNERSHIP – Western Reserve
 - 2 churches sharing a building/resources/plans
- JOB-SEEKERS PROGRAMS & FEEDING PROGRAMS – Western Reserve
 - Commitment to homeless ministry outweighed fear of change

There were many ideas and missions that were common to most or all presbyteries

IMMIGRANT FELLOWSHIPS

Nested in a host congregation

Using denominational immigration expertise (connected!)

MISSION WORK – Most Presbyteries

PDA Projects – stressing our connectional denomination (connected!)

MIGRANT SERVICE – through Synod Mobile Health Fair (connected!)

LILLY GRANTS – 4 presbyteries

Clergy support, sabbaticals

CONGREGATION EXPANDING MINISTRY TO/WITH HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

- Leaving their building, forming/increasing partnerships, church will be housed with other agencies programs

MISSION VISION LISTENING TEAMS – (Executive Presbyters)

- Listening to churches needs – how Presbytery can help

- Worship highlighting blind people's experience of worship & other physical challenges, even mental challenge
 - Attitudes needed- openness, empathy, kindness, humility
 - Acts 16:5 transformation program to get church active in mission
 - Willingness to dialogue with others different theological perspective
 - Mobile Health ministry remains viable
 - Talents needed-creativity, courage, good cooks, teachers, ministers
 - LOGOS ministry-education so next generation has an idea what it means to be reformed Christian
 - Stephen Ministry-open to community
 - Resource – movies, open conversation
 - Video series-Justice
 - Persistence/commitment to making it happen
 - How do we find more opportunities to celebrate the multiculturalism
 - GA commissioners enjoyed international worship experiences
 - Need to celebrate our diversity in worship-ex. MLK “beloved community”
 - One rural church-Hispanic Presbyterians come to them asking for a place to meet
 - Another church, in partnership with an ELCA church doing same thing on Thursday nights
 - Churches keeping buildings open and in use more days than Sundays to meet community needs
 - One commissioner learns at every assembly meeting more about exciting mission programs synod sponsors!
 - Groups doing these things need to be in touch with each other-sharing what works and what does not. Sees need of middle bodies for this (note-CMX)
 - Synod commissioners need to be better at reporting to presbyteries and sessions
 - All judicatory levels are called “Presbytery”- and it is believed “Presbytery owns our building”
 - One presbytery is reinventing COM to help rather than discipline churches-how to connect them to resources they need.
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- Attitudes come first-openness, recognition that something is there-often resources have changed- then talents and gifts show up. Someone wanted it to happen in the beginning-then others get into it.
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Idea floated around...people became open...interim encouraged...new pastors were/arrived equipped to lead (How organic is that?!?)

1. Engage Youth
 - Open to neighborhood & communities
 - New mission statements
 - Theology Pubs
 - Ecumenical
2. Diversity in Language
 - Sharing Power
 - Recognizing Different Cultures
 - Welcoming Attitudes
 - Building Relationships
 - Training
 - KEY Individuals
3. Trouble identifying new Presbytery wide
 - Same old way not necessarily the best way