

MOTION:

Receive this draft mission strategy. Appoint 2-3 people, at least one of them from Council to work with Corey Schlosser-Hall on 1) second draft of the strategy, 2) develop and execute a process to consult with NPS Presbytery committees and congregations and then 3) to redraft for action by next council meeting in August 2009.

NPS Presbytery Mission Strategy 2009-10

First Draft for Exploration

PC(USA) Book of Order: G-11.0103

The presbytery is responsible for the mission and government of the church throughout its geographical district. It therefore has the responsibility and power

- a. to develop *strategy for the mission of the church in its area* consistent with G-3.0000;
- b. to coordinate the work of its member churches, guiding them and mobilizing their strength for the most effective witness to the broader community for which it has responsibility;
- c. to initiate mission through a variety of forms in light of the larger strategy of the synod and the General Assembly;

Friends,

I delight in serving Jesus Christ's mission hand in hand with you and our 34 churches, 1 NCD, 1 fellowship, 110 minister members and 7500 missionaries (a.k.a. "members"). Now is the time to shape and articulate a mission strategy that will focus our efforts to plant the seeds for the church in 2019 and even 2039—a 30 year horizon. Of course we cannot see that far into the future, but God can cultivate a vision that will help us view today's planting as tomorrow's habitat for our children. Now is the time to pray, think, and feel our way to a strategy that gives substance to our mission—to engage, equip, and encourage people and congregations as together we serve Jesus Christ to transform the world.

This paper is a rough draft outline to get us talking. I hope this will inform council's ministry this year and in coming years. This strategy is temporal, revisable, and meant to be a fluid guide at any moment in time. We are willing to revise and even scrap it as we act, reflect, and learn. But we will not shy away from putting pen to paper and communicating our intent for today.

Love of God and love of neighbor is core to the Christian way of being. This mission strategy for NPS Presbyterians is one that emerges out of the gravitational pull between disciples of Jesus Christ and our neighbors—the people and communities God has planted us in. It gives shape and direction to the moments and episodes when *disciples* of Christ sense God's tug to become *apostles*—people sent *by* God; to partner *with* God; to bring God's purposes to fruition and fulfillment.

NPS PRESBYTERY MISSION STRATEGY FOR THIS TIME

Our mission is to engage, equip, and encourage people and congregations to . . .

Plant

- Seeds of the Gospel in word and deed with our children, family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Congregations, fellowships, and missional communities in partnership with existing congregations.
- New partnerships in mission.

Grow

- Church plants into planting churches.
- Church officers and sessions into maturity, into the full measure and stature of Christ (Ephesians 4)
- Church members into followers of Jesus with their whole lives—vocatio.
- Congregations and congregants into trustworthy, effective partners in mission to bless whole communities.

Go

- To bless people of our local communities, region, and world.

. . . as we follow Jesus Christ who is at work transforming the world.

VALUES

Love our neighbors as ourselves.

All for one and one for all. We will live this in our mission, care, celebrations, sorrows, financial giving, and fellowship.

Reformed and always being reformed according to the Word of God. Live loud and proud as reformed Presbyterians with God's sovereignty, not ours, in the center.

Begin again . . . and again . . . and again. This is Christ's way, we can begin anew each day, each relationship can be healed and reconciled, each failure tried again, each setback reset.

Mission in Partnership. We will share our mission endeavors with our brothers and sisters in Christ; pray for our brothers and sisters as they undertake their calling; chase after visions too big for us to tackle; open up to the partnerships the Holy Spirit is orchestrating; be partners who are trustworthy, effective, and creative in mission.

Playfulness. This adventure we are on, requires lots of laughter, fun, and play. We will find opportunities to enjoy each other and play together as we go about our ministry.

Learning. We will be voracious learners from our experiences as we walk this path together. Each experience of effectiveness *or* ineffectiveness valued, evaluated, and integrated into our next step.

MEASUREABLES

Today

- 34 congregations, 1 New Church Development, 2 Worshipping Fellowships, 7 ministers in validated ministries, 15 people preparing for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, 7500 Presbyterians, 5560 average worship attendees,
- ??% of adult Presbyterians who perceive their lives aligned with God's calling--vocation.
- ??% of Presbyterians from ethnicities other than caucasian/Anglo
- 1 in every ?? new elders are serving for the first time
- 1 in every ?? new deacons are serving for the first time
- ??% new elders/deacons who have experienced "apostolate" preparation
- 20% of congregations/ncd/fellowships who intentionally practice "reformed and always being reformed according to the Word of God"
- ??% of congregations where at least 10% of members are new (for less than 5 years).
- ??% of congregations where at least 5% of attendees are new to Christianity (Profession of Faith or adult baptisms)
- % of congregations have at least 5% of attendees actively addressing the most pressing social concerns of their neighborhood/county as identified in government or school studies.
- % of \$ from all congregations that goes to mission beyond their walls.

2019

- 37 congregations (32 of current 34 congregations), 3 new church developments/worshipping fellowships/missional communities, 20 ministers in validated ministries, 25 people preparing for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, 8500 members, 8000 average worship attendees,
- 50% of adult Presbyterians who perceive their lives aligned with God's calling--vocation.
- 20% of Presbyterians from ethnicities other than caucasian/Anglo
- 1 in every 3 new elders are serving for the first time
- 1 in every 3 new deacons are serving for the first time
- 75% of new elders/deacons have graduated from apostolate preparation
- 50% of congregations/church plants/fellowships that intentionally practice "reformed and always being reformed according to the Word of God"
- 50% of congregations where at least 10% of members are new (less than 5 years).
- 50% of congregations where at least 5% of attendees are new to Christianity (Profession of Faith or adult baptisms)
- 50% of congregations have at least 5% of attendees actively addressing the most pressing social concerns of their neighborhood/county as identified in government or school studies
- 15% of \$ from all congregations goes to mission beyond their walls.

POTENTIAL WAYS TO PURSUE THIS MISSION STRATEGY

- 1) By 2010 have 60% of current congregations in an intentional transformation process of some sort i.e. *Unbinding the Gospel* with Martha Grace Reese or *Missional Transformation* with Allelon Foundation
- 2) Strengthen current congregations toward becoming both healthy and missional with focus on current Pastor(s) and Session.
 - a. Consultation
 - b. Training
 - c. Coaching on specific dimensions
 - d. Conflict intervention and consultation

Who: COM, Presbytery Staff, VIM

- 3) Prepare and Equip Next Generation of Presbyterian Christian Leaders
 - a. Training and coaching for congregational NOM committees on qualities and recruitment of mature Christians for elder/deacon
 - b. Equipping and encouraging sessions to adopt an apostolate preparation period for potential leaders--2 year development: Prayer and other spiritual disciplines, Scripture, confession, and interpreting how "my story" fits into the larger Christian story. This will shape new leaders to step into the Christian story today and be one who is shaped by our foremothers and fathers for ministry in Christ's way. Mature in faith and aware of place in the Church eternal and temporal.
 - c. Equipping and encouraging sessions to identify and discern with candidates for ministry of Word and Sacrament (CPM)
 - d. Officer training for existing and new church officers to connect and encourage each other.
- 4) Encourage congregations to introduce and develop "Marketplace Ministry" groups for people who work outside the home and "parenthood as calling" groups for stay-at-home moms and dads.
- 5) Commission church members as missionaries in their professional workplaces—teachers, police officers, business people live out vocation as mission from God.
- 6) Begin new congregations/missional communities:
 - a. Encourage, equip, and partner with current congregations to adopt church "planting" as part of their mission.
 - b. Actively pursue ethnic and immigrant congregational development to partner with current congregations.
 - c. Equip and encourage worshipping communities that emerge out of the mission of covenant partners or other agencies in North Puget Sound.
 - d. Presbytery initiated new church developments in communities that demonstrate signs of readiness for Reformed congregational presence and mission.
- 7) Invite some existing congregations to close or shift to "Fellowship" status
- 8) Deepen commitment to Covenant Mission Partners in our bounds (PCS, Tall Timber, etc.)

- 9) Expand Covenant Mission Partners to reach people and communities our current congregations cannot reach. Then foster worshipping communities that emerge out of those mission agencies.
- 10) Develop a “Business as Mission” approach to community development both locally and internationally alongside our current models of mission development.
- 11) Expand focus on “Validating Ministry” of Word and Sacrament in institutions that we need to connect with: Hospitals, Jails, Government Agencies.

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