

April 30, 2011

Dear Members of Missouri River Valley Presbytery;

Over the last 3 years the Presbytery Council has been working through the process of a 3 year Strategic Plan. Each of the last 3 years we have set goals that fit into the overall goals of the plan, but this year as we were contemplating starting a new 3 year plan, we realized though our goals are sound, we left out a step. We left out a very key question – what ought to be the role and function of our Presbytery?

No matter how good the goals are, and how clear the paradigm we are living in “God expects us to succeed through, prayer, faith and bold action.” We need to know what our congregations feel our role and function of this particular Presbytery should be. Then, it is our responsibility as a Council to discern and work through what the local church needs, both in program, staffing, and function.

Our hope is that Presbytery committee members, Commissioned Lay Pastors, elders currently serving, and minister members would answer these three questions by June 30, 2011. Our plan then is to compile this information and review it at our August 4, Council meeting, to then share the data at the August Presbytery meeting, then in November come to Presbytery with a plan for the direction of our Presbytery using the information received.

As we all know financial implications affect every area of our church life – from General Assembly, to Synod, to Presbytery, to our local congregations. We are trying to proactively direct the funding, the staffing, and the mission and ministry of our Presbytery in a way that fulfills Christ’s mission in our world. The only way we feel we can do this is to receive the most information from the leadership of our churches, and Presbytery.

We ask that you will take the time to fill this sheet out and return to us by June 30. We thank you for your time, and please be in prayer for your Presbytery leadership team as we discern just where God is leading us in the future.

Nancy Ross-Hullinger  
Chair of Presbytery Council

**Please take time to respond to these three important questions relating to the life of our Presbytery – and thank you for your time!**

**I am a(an):**

Presbytery Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Presbytery Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder serving on the Session: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioned Lay Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Pastor of \_\_\_\_\_ Church

(You may fill more than one role, but please fill out only one form – check the lines that are appropriate for your roles.)

(If you need more space use the back of this page)

1. What should our priorities be as a Presbytery?

2. Who is God calling us to be as a Presbytery?

3. How might we live out our faithfulness to God in and through the Presbytery?

**Please return this form by June 30, 2011 to the Presbytery Office at:  
302 S. 74<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha NE. 68114-4617**