



Stepping Up to the Plate Handout 1 of 2

PMRV Discernment process 2021-2022

Leadership Team: Special Report & Invitation to the Presbytery [as of 8-5-21]

Special Inning: August 14 Presbytery Meeting

Dear Presbytery,

The PMRV Leadership Team has been doing a discernment process to help us sense the Spirit together and perhaps see more glimpses of God's vision for us.

At the August Presbytery meeting we thought it would be good to:

🕒 1 Share some of what we have discovered

🕒 2 Invite you to respond to some questions during small group time at lunch

Therefore, here's the first step.

🕒 1 Share some of what we have discovered

🕒 Overview of the Field

The PMRV Leadership Team across May, June and July has been going through a discernment process based on principles from Appreciate Inquiry and Spiritual direction. Step by step we have been in prayerful deliberation and conversation around some generative and constructive questions. What do we perceive to be working well in PMRV? Where do we give God thanks? Where do we sense God is at work? What do we think God would like to see more of? What are big picture things? What are small picture things? What questions do we have? What do we wonder about? What are challenges? Opportunities? How do we identify and address authentic "adaptive" challenges and as well as technical?

With each step of our homework and live conversations we've compiled and grouped notes to keep building the conversation.

BTW: *In case it isn't obvious, somehow the image of a baseball team has helped our conversations.*

🕒 1st Inning - Notes (May) from Leadership Team

This isn't perfect or all-encompassing, but it's our best snapshot

PMRV offers:

Connection as members of the Body of Christ

Support for the challenging call of following Jesus

Acceptance for different ways of being church

Challenge to learn and grow from Christ and each other

Power in sharing ministry

PMRV Resources include:

Shared Vision Shared Commitment - being in this together

Shared Energy Shared Workload Shared Support

Shared Culture, including a Covenant. Also, a range of cultures –

in kinds of churches & communities—43 Churches, 43 Locations, 6000 people, 2 states

Shared Tradition – Reformed, Always being reformed by the Spirit

Shared Process of discernment of the Spirit

Shared Administration with an adaptive structure

Coordinated, collaborative People

Shared Funds Shared office

🏏 **2nd Inning - Notes (June) from Leadership Team**

This isn't perfect or all-encompassing, but it's our best snapshot

Callings we sense - which also include challenges within

To Listen deeply

For God + to follow God's lead, perhaps more in bits & pieces [from May "small ball"]

To each other, Congregation to Congregation, People—listening for needs, support & healing

To see how we become more deeply the Body of Christ (*see separate heading below, too*)

Made to help one another, to be in Partnership, Sharing, Collaboration

To Be the Body of Christ as a presbytery

Connecting with each other (not being silos)

Engagement, community, learning, networking & problem solving among us

To use the Matthew 25 initiative as a way for all of us to connect (*is this a common language?*)

To deepen Communications

More opportunities to share conversation & thoughts

Safe for all to speak, different people & all kinds of churches

Matthew 25 Building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty

Figure it out more & keep translating it to others

Hope it creates health & engagement

Not get overwhelmed Markers for it Platform for it

Keeping it inclusive, keeping the invitation open & honest, keeping it alive & accessible

To Affirm God is using us!

Breakaway Ideas from June 2021

-PMRV a mustard seed – responding to challenges in church & culture

-Are we in a time of BLOSSOMING? -Let's share the enthusiasm

Bonus thought:

It's not that "presbytery" "does things" for people. Rather, could it be: Presbytery, as an embodiment of Christ, is an empowering entity providing channels for the Spirit's work among us

(Is this a new way? Or, the embrace of an ancient, spiritual one.)

🏏 **3rd Inning - Notes (July) from Leadership Team**

Leadership Team meets August 17 to review the notes from this inning.

🏏 **4th Inning: August 14, 2021 – PMRV Meeting**

Small Group conversations over lunch

Please see separate handout.

🏏 **Why?**

Transforming as a presbytery is not done by a magic wand or fiat or a big budget. It is done prayerfully and collaboratively together. In this way, our inner culture develops, we build relationships and discover the provision God has for us. From this we will better see and be able to respond to the adaptive and technical ways God has in mind for us.