

Peace River Presbytery – Building the Roadmap to the Future

August 31, 2018

VISION: We believe God is calling us as a presbytery to affirm assist and support congregations, connect disciples in mission and be the Body of Christ together.

The current vision has served the Presbytery well, each word carefully chosen and woven together. There is one word that the team, in consultation with the Steering Committee, is recommending for change; to shift from AFFIRM congregations to the more active words of ASSIST and SUPPORT congregations. It acknowledges the important role of the presbytery in providing support to church leaders of all stripes; teaching elders, ruling elders, deacons, Christian Education staff, and other leaders.

VALUE: Affirm a culture that nurtures joyful and caring relationships as we learn to do God’s work together.

Originally eight areas of focus were identified but one became overwhelming important to each of the remaining priority directives: to nurture relationships: this is at the core of being able to bring people together to do God’s work. While opinions, views and theologies may differ, it is the commitment to work together and learn together with mutual respect and genuine caring that ministry can be done joyfully. It is about setting the tone of a nurturing culture. Therefore, this theme is elevated to the level of a guiding VALUE statement.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1. **Support pastors:** Provide better support for pastors toward vibrant ministry in an ever-changing culture. *Benchmark: Encourage a culture of permission giving that energizes our connectional commitment to mission in an ever-changing community and world.*
2. **Equip church leaders:** Support churches in strengthening and equipping leadership toward a broad missional view. *Benchmark: Empower and unite congregations as a presbytery while equipping and celebrating the ministries of individual congregations.*
3. **Improve Communications:** Develop a communication strategy and create systems of sharing/teamwork that improve exchange between all bodies. *Benchmark: Strategize and experiment to find the most effective communication plan for shared ministry.*
4. **Encourage greater diversity:** Determine opportunities for greater diversity. *Benchmark: Leverage the diversity of southwest Florida to build excellence, innovation and hospitality that allows all members of the community to contribute their best effort.*
5. **Empower outreach:** Focus and empower current outreach projects while being open and responsive to new opportunities. *Benchmark: Create mission awareness to develop and implement programs of outreach that balance the needs of our region, nation and world with the resources of the congregations and presbytery.*
6. **Prepare for transition:** Develop a plan to proactively address upcoming leadership transitions. *Benchmark: Use every opportunity of leadership transition to bring positive energy and passion to move ministry to new levels of vitality.*
7. **Create new and renewed worshipping communities and ministry models.** *Benchmark: Grow Peace River Presbytery membership at rate equal to population growth.*