



DISCERNING OUR MISSION RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL



The Mission Visioning Council of Eastminster Presbytery has undertaken a bold initiative to help the presbytery and our congregations to discern our mission and to respond to God's call to ministry. What will be the future shape of Eastminster Presbytery? How will we understand our mission? What is our vision? What will be our priorities? These are the questions the Council has been asking. Its response to these questions is, "We must listen." We must listen to you, the pastors and congregations of Eastminster Presbytery. Only after the Council hears from you will it be able to fully discern God's call to mission for Eastminster Presbytery.

How will Eastminster Presbytery and our congregations partner in this endeavor?

1. Session Cluster Groups

The Sessions of all 54 congregations in Eastminster Presbytery have been invited to participate in Cluster Groups of 3 to 4 sessions. The Mission Visioning Council is working with professional consultant Dave Weida, a member of the Council and of the New Covenant Community Church, to lead this discernment process. The outcomes the Council is seeking are that sessions will have a clearer sense of their own call to mission, the presbytery will gain insights into how to more effectively resource our congregations, and all participants will grow spiritually.

2. Sharing in a Missional Sunday on November 2

The Congregational Transformation Action Learning Team of the Mission Visioning Council has asked all pastors to preach on the theme, *Why are we here?*, on Sunday, November 2, All Saints' Sunday. Why this theme? Because it is a foundational question for our congregations as we seek to discern our mission. *Why* (What is our mission, our purpose, our reason for being) *are we* (as a church, a community of faith, a unique body of believers) *here* (in this community, this mission field, this context for ministry)? Pastors, do you know particular biblical texts that will help others focus on the theme *Why are we here?* Share them with the Presbytery Center at mariannelidstone@faithfulness.com and we will email them out to your fellow pastors.

3. Peer Coaching Groups

The Leadership Development Action Learning Team of the Mission Visioning Council is forming Peer Coaching Groups for pastors who would like to work with a mutually supportive group of colleagues in order to learn from and encourage one another. Each group will be assigned a trained coach. Ministers who wish to be a part of a Peer Coaching Group are asked to contact danschomer@faithfulness.com.

Please plan to be involved in this important Presbytery-wide discernment process.