

Strategic Review of Peace River Presbytery Mission/Vision (Draft 4-12-2018)

Brief History: In 2010 a Guide Team was formed to consider the question: who is God calling us to be? In 2013 Peace River Presbytery adopted the following: **We believe God is calling us as a Presbytery: *to affirm congregations, *connect disciples in mission and *be the Body of Christ together.** In doing so we follow the guiding values of being a *missional, relational, and learning community* together centered in Christ. This new vision and strategy had ramifications for the structure of the organization and subsequent moves were made to utilize and deploy resources of both volunteers and staff to move from a model that was based on being a regional mission and program agency to one learning and deliberative body that exists to serve the mission of God in the world.

Time for Review: In 2017 the Steering Committee appointed a Strategic Review Team (Team) who reflected on the accomplishments and shortcomings of the five years since adoption, interviewed members of the original guide team and considered the 12 criteria and benchmarks that were laid out by as evidence of success.

Preliminary Findings: In doing so the Strategic Review Team concluded that the *culture* of the presbytery has been favorably impacted by the mission/vision focus. While progress is apparent in areas of *system agility* and *leadership*, these performance indicators are not yet firmly embedded in the organization's culture and system. The benchmarks where the presbytery falls shortest cluster under an umbrella of *communication, missional awareness* and *innovation*.

Feedback: At the February Peace River Presbytery stated meeting commissioners were asked to reflect on the preliminary findings and offer further input. In March the Steering Committee considered the feedback from the Presbytery, added to the melting pot of ideas.

Finding Focus: From there the Strategic Review Team went to work in identifying the points of focus that can serve as the road map for the next 5 to 7 years.

Vision Statement: **We believe God is calling us as a Presbytery: *to affirm equip congregations, *connect disciples in mission and *be the Body of Christ together.** This represents a reaction to the strong call for Presbytery to add value by providing support to pastors and lay leadership in achieving effective ministry.

Road Map:

1. Develop culture that nurtures joyful and caring relationships
2. Provide better support for pastors toward effective ministry in an ever-changing culture
3. Support churches in strengthening and equipping lay leadership toward a broad missional view
4. Develop a communication strategy and create systems of sharing/teamwork that improve exchange between all bodies
5. Seek to operate as a learning community
6. Determine opportunities for greater diversity
7. Focus and empower current outreach projects while being open and responsive to new opportunities
8. Develop a plan to proactively address upcoming pastoral leadership transitions
9. Develop a plan to anticipate PRP leadership transition and recommend effective staffing model and transition strategy
10. Create new worshipping communities