

Overview of Our Transitional Process

The Transition Process will be guided by three general goals:

- a) to become who we say we are in our mission statement—
“Led by the Holy Spirit, Albany Presbytery encourages, challenges and equips its members and congregations to thrive as disciples of Jesus Christ.”;
- b) to explore how our current goals—to encourage, challenge, and equip **vital congregations; healthy relationships; missional living**—can be utilized to shape the Presbytery’s life in both form and function;
- c) to move the all parts of the Presbytery from “governing body” to missional council as envisioned by the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government.

The Transition Process will be guided by these Core Values:

1. **Biblical/Theological**
 - a. Rootedness in the Reformed tradition.
 - b. Spending deep time and energy around discernment, worship and prayer at every gathering.
 - c. Sharing of theological friendships and curiosity with each other.
2. **Transparency/Sharing**
 - a. Sharing entire process as it unfolds.
 - b. Posting all reports, readings, meeting information on the Presbytery website after each gathering.
 - c. Reporting at each Presbytery meeting.
 - d. Meeting with variety of stakeholders throughout the Presbytery, giving equal time, attention, listening to each.
3. **Presbytery as a Learning Community**
 - a. Core Commitment to learning together about change, demographics, missional direction of the Presbytery/Church of the present-future
 - b. Each team of Presbytery spending 50% of its time together learning and growing in futuring directions
 - c. Inviting new leadership as guides
4. **Watch-Words:** Creativity, Risk-Taking, Abundance, Prophetic

The Transition Process will be coordinated by the Presbytery Council:

- (1) The Presbytery Council will be the coordinating team for the transition process. Some of the first tasks for the Council will be:
 - a) to evaluate the work of current “teams;
 - b) to review the transitional work we have already done (mainly the work of the Flipping Task Force);
 - c) to determine what we know & what we need to know for this time.
- (2) Council members will increase their leadership and coordination of their areas of responsibility.
- (3) The Presbytery Council will appoint a **Vision Team** to assist the Council and the Presbytery:
 - a) in visioning ways to move forward;
 - b) in planning & leading transition activities;
 - c) in shaping the goals & outcomes of the transition process;
 - d) in evaluating how the transition process is going.Members of the Vision Team will be recommended by the current Moderator of Presbytery, the two immediate past Moderators, and the Moderator of Council. The Transitional Presbyter will lead this team. Some members of this team will serve as “ad hoc” members of Council.
- (4) As needed, the Presbytery Council will appoint additional teams to assist in the work of the transitional process. The Presbytery Council will coordinate the work of all teams.
- (5) The Presbytery Council and all of its teams will seek to engage new and different voices in their discussions and decision-making.

During the Transition Process the Presbytery will work to

- Integrate **learning and discernment** into its life and work.
- Experiment with using “**teams**” (instead of “committees”) for our mission and ministry in order to give greater emphasis to vision, goals, purpose, unity, equal effort, and accomplishment.
- Give ourselves permission to be more **fluid and flexible** in our meetings, in our teams, in our ministry, and in our life together.
- Make **ecumenicity** a major emphasis in all aspects of our ministries.
- Work to build a **community of love and trust** as the necessary foundation for an effective missional council.