

# Webinar #1

## Vision and Mission of the Presbytery

**Participants:**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Church/Worshipping Community/Organization</b>
Barron	Pat	First Presbyterian Church Hudson Falls
Barron	Michael	First United Presbyterian Church of Salem
Diggory	Terry	Presbyterian-- New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Sp
Fullerton	Arthur	Westminster Presbyterian
Gibson	Denice	Malta Presbyterian Church
Gregg	Tom	West Charlton United Presbyterian Church
Hessberg	Lois	Delmar Presbyterian
Kotfila	Kate	Cambridge United
McKinney	Jerry	United Church of Granville
McKnight	Joyce	Rockwell Falls Presbyterian
Molyneaux	Cara	Trinity Presbyterian
O'Malley	Linda	Oakwood Community Center/FUPC, Troy
Orth	Bonnie	Mayfield Presbyterian Church
Pollan	Karen	Delmar Presbyterian Church
RIDDLE	Phillip	First Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY
Randall	Paul	Westminster
Riddle	Marilyn	First Presbyterian Church- Albany, NY
Rogers	Laura	First United Troy
Rogers	Daniel	Albany Presbytery
Rose	Rob	Minister At Large
Strang	Susan	Christ's Church of the Hills
Vance-Ocampo	Shannan	Albany Presbytery Staff
Wilson	Lois	Westminster Presbyterian Church of Albany
Mitchell	Laura	West Hebron United Presbyterian

**Comments typed in during the Webinar:**

- acknowledge diversity as well as unity
- I don't like the deficit focus which "post Christendom" implies. I prefer a

more positive frame such as "Field of Missions"

- I believe that our 2016 mission statement must include a part that includes the need to relinquish that which is no longer useful and to do that well. To teach and encourage how to let go
  - In response to Arthur's good suggestion, I think we may want to consider our early church history--Acts 17:16-33 (Paul in Athens).
  - Isn't this post-Christendom language there to help us as a marker to help us know we are going to a new beginning if you will?
  - I have a problem with the phrase the least of these because it can sound condescending to those who might not know us. I get it but I worry that others might not.
  - The first church certainly lived in a pre-Christendom era
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- re: #3, if "new members" means increasing numbers, that conflicts with the acknowledgment of "post-Christendom" reality
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  - What is "wrong" with the current mission statement? In other words, why do we need to change it? The current mission statement is simple and fairly clear. The proposed statement is much wordier (and I think says less). I think the statement of context is very helpful and would be an excellent educational/discussion tool that would enhance the work outlined in our current mission statement. We may want to change the goals (or not), but I'm not sure we need to change the actual mission statement.
  - As an outlier, I must ask as I deal with many unchurched 30-somethings, is there some new way we can do the things that embody Christian work without needing the constant identity stamp?
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- Is there disagreement that we are in a "Post-Christendom" period?
  - I thought we already discovered that rural migrant ministries did not really connect with needs of congregations in Albany presbytery
  - Kim-I agree with all parties comments. The need to refine, if our mission has indeed changed, is essential. But a mission statement should be concise, not wordy. And this proposal is redundant as well.
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- In early Christianity the reputation spread.
  - It is also helpful to display all of the written questions and comments. Some people will not speak but will type interesting and important

thoughts

- Concerns Linda is raising are all good and I thought this is what we were supposed to be doing over the last few years
- Shannan—there was no date included with the (current) mission statement and goals--intentionally.
  
- Jim, I think you are right--the process is necessary and a good one, and I am not questioning that. I think our discussions have been very profitable--and will continue to be. While Michael is correct that we are in a different time, I do not think that we have sufficiently accomplished the mission we stated. Also, I think that this statement was to go through 2016, not 2012. Making disciples has been and always will be our mission--in season and out, in Christendom or out.
- I like local mission work and find it has a way to keep us focused on what we have capacity to do. I wonder if the Presbytery can assist the churches more in local mission work, particularly the small ones? If the smallest churches are stuck in survival mode, it is more difficult for them to do effective outreach.
  
- I totally agree. The mission statement works, the understanding of diverse communities may need to be the focus
- These priorities seem to be better reflected in the current mission statement.
  
- Is there a part of the current mission statement that no longer applies? The mission statement is not the work plan
- I didn't mean it was secret just that as we see questions its nice to know who's asking them thank for you work and I appreciate this first attempt to meet with us this way
- In your discussions and work on this statement, how have the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304) been used? In the same way that we need to educate ourselves about our context, we need to educate ourselves about who we say we are.
  
- Feeding, equipping are great terms
- your work is very valuable for us my d.min uses these formats a lot and you did a great job
- Healthy relationships could be changed to find and feed the hungry
  
- Tom had a good question. My congregation is working with a

fairly large group of migrant workers (mainly in the slate industry, but on farms, too).

- Healthy relationships is dated and has negative history that the general population is very familiar with.
- Lois's comment was right on target concerning our current statement.
- Absolutely! Hungry is a much more appropriate term
- We can be hungry at various times in our lives in multiple environments
- What if we are receiver focused? For example: Reviewing the campus missions. Focusing on the participants and what are they "doing".
- At Malta Presbyterian Church we receive messages on our phone asking for food, housing by people who live in the area. When I was aware of this I asked, what is our response? I was surprised that we do not have a "next step" response. It wasn't just that we do not have the financial resources because I learned that individuals have given money/gift cards to these people, but that we had no knowledge of community resources, referral information or even vetting to make sure their needs were legitimate. That seems to me to be a basic need of all congregations that would be helpful to have a resource to use that "feeds" the hungry in so many ways instead of the phone call not being returned for lack of direction.
- This was a great opportunity and a great communication tool. Thank you VERY much for all of your efforts and work.