



Albany Presbytery Convocation in Stillwater  
May 8, 2018

**WHAT DO WE ALL AGREE UPON THAT WE SHOULD LOOK TO PRESBYTERY FOR?**

21 participants: representing 16 congregations, plus PW, Trustees, staff and SPAT  
4 were first-time coming to a SPAT event

- A] Plenary reflection on verses from Psalm 66.
- B] Reflection on the meaning of discernment (our collective task), as opposed to democracy.
- C] The following affirmations came in response to the presenting question, above:
- Help in managing congregational transitions: especially pastoral/leadership changes. Pastoral care for clergy/leaders – *though no agreement as to how!*
  - Responsive attention – and even more, proactive engagement with smaller churches
  - Help in forming human-resource pools – c.f. musicians, accountants, skilled repair folk
  - Help in networking: c.f. sharing of ideas, mission partnerships, and joint youth ministries
  - Opportunities for spiritual renewal
  - Book of Order functions, including disciplinary & judicial
- D] Various participants voiced concern over [1] strained relationships, [2] feelings that Presbytery overlooks them or their churches, [3] gaps between what people say they want (from Presbytery) and their willingness to help make things happen.