



Small Group Discussions



What's Cooking?

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- Community breakfast ~ Coffeeshop open to community ~ Vacation Bible School ~ Mental Health programs ~ Much needed renovations ~ Community Dinners ~ Music Program ~ Online Worship ~ In Person Worship ~ Social Ministries ~ Food Pantry ~ Community Outreach ~ Kids' Program ~ Medical Equipment Ministry ~ Member Funded Revitalization Fund ~ Messy Church ~ So many agreeing to serve another term ~ Monthly Mission Projects ~ In Person Energy ~ Community Feeling

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What's Simmering/Bubbling

Getting more volunteers ~ Finding ways to use through mission ~ more attention to children ministry~ how to reach out to 30s and 40s ~ Global Mission ~ Music~ streaming worship~ Learning how to care for the cemetery ~ kids involved but not parents ~ encouraging engagement in the whole ministry ~ how to provide youth and children's ministry with limited resources ~ keeping the church relevant and accessible on all levels ~ updating the music program ~fluctuating Sunday School attendance ~ service on session increasing ~ bite size opportunities to get engaged ~ what happens when key leaders leave or die?

What's Boiling over or not cooking at all?

Youth group ~ Fellowship/partnership with other congregations ~ Mission Team ~ Budget and Finances ~ Burn out ~ Death of key leaders ~ Stewardship ~ Need to update music ~ Finances and survival ~ membership increases needed ~ lack of perceived need for church/worship service ~ connection to neighborhood churches



Name one thing you
could do?

One thing you would do if you knew it would be a success?

What would be the worst thing that could happen if you tried just one new thing?

- Start a community garden or design a labyrinth
- Build tiny houses on our fields
- Open Gym space to youth in our community ~ Insurance problems, injuries, issues with drinking, drugs, bullying
- Pilgrimage to Scotland ~ Planning and resources needed ~ Not enough interest, people don't get along, plane might crash
- Christian Education for adults and children beyond worship – Midweek worship ~ People might not come – too much planning- people not willing to invest time/resources
- Start a choir
- Expand food ministry to full service food pantry and more frequent free meals
- Expand support of residents of assisted living facilities
- Hire musicians to form a worship band.



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- Expand to a second service and include those recovering from addiction and dealing with mental health issues
- Activities for children
- What if we stopped hybrid services – would in person attendance increase?
- What would be the worse thing if we tried one thing new?
 - Learn how not to do it
 - Loss of money
 - A deepening sense of loss – more grief and apathy
 - “Nothing is going to work”
- Send out a community listener
- Do something useful for the vacant manse
- Education of some kind ~ spend more time listening to the spirit.
- Share space with non profits to utilize space not being used.



One thing you would do if you knew it would be a success?

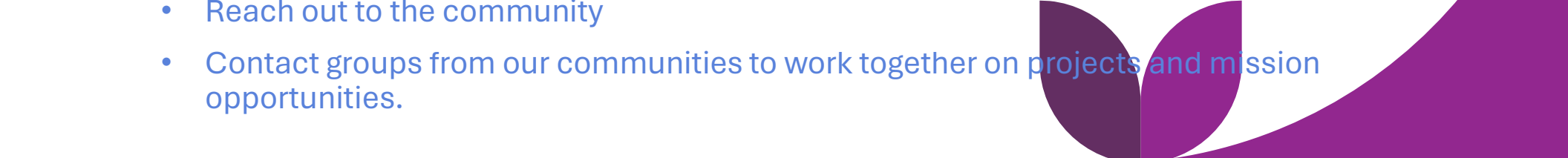
What would be the worst thing that could happen if you tried just one new thing?

- Discussion of need for physical building ~ no one joins the conversation
 - Bridging communities with other communities of faith
 - Open up to people from different walks of life
 - Utilizing “underutilized” facilities
 - Intentional choice to include and involve young people
 - Importance of music in attracting people
 - A contemporary worship service and a Labyrinth
 - Coalition for affordable housing
 - Sharing space for youth
 - Utilizing property including kitchen – create a space for youth to gather
 - Host conversations like “Braver Angels”
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One thing you would do if you knew it would be a success?

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- Use the church space for day retreats
 - WORSE thing that could happen – No one shows up or engages initiatives, conflicts or loss of members.
 - More Choir members
 - More integrated community involvement including inspiring our members to participate in more outreach work
 - Evangelistic campaign
 - More kids into CE and young families into church
 - Mid week or Sunday Evening activities
 - Get churches together to promote “progressive religious thought”
 - Reach out to the community
 - Contact groups from our communities to work together on projects and mission opportunities.
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- Strategies to communicate value offered by church to youth
- Use of building for monetary source
- Work with group training people to restore historic headstones in cemeteries
- Worse thing that could happen ~ minimal participation ~expense with significant result ~people want to remain anonymous~ small groups become stagnant
- What is God calling our church to do? Need to think outside the box. Why hold activities in the church building?
- Failure leads to learning
- Implement plan to utilize church buildings/properties as community resources.
- Bring online worshippers into church community
- Host ESL classes
- Share property with another congregation
- Host interfaith gatherings



What do you need for the Journey?

Presbytery small group discussion

What do you need for the journey and what can you share?

January Presbytery meeting Responses

- CE – How can we grow? Need Ideas for connecting with children
- How to use our website better
- Family ministries
- Can we share a seminary intern with other congregations?
- Youth and Children ministry
- Ideas and creative solutions to declining worship attendance
- Can we, as Presbyterians, consider another way of being together without the whole “becoming a member” thing?
- We need to bring to the journey Faith, Patience, Knowledge and a willingness to change and to listen.
- Presbytery can help with Technology and shared activities

What do you need for the journey and what can you share?

January Presbytery meeting Responses

- Presbytery can help with candidates under care and support people being called to ministry
- We can share liturgical resources and sharing the gifts of preaching and organizational change
- Presbytery can help with finding pastoral leadership
- Share music for Presbytery meetings
- How can presbytery include, celebrate, acknowledge and support validated ministries and ministers in validated ministries?
- Can presbytery be less formal and more in person activities?
- Guidance from the Presbytery on evangelism?
- Mini Retreat for new elders
- We could participate in presbytery committees

What do you need for the journey and what can you share?

January Presbytery meeting Responses

- How can we encourage new leaders in local congregations?
- We need to feel more connected between our churches, presbytery can help make those connections
- Offer our gifts and expertise for conversations and discussion in other congregations
- We could work together to bridge the gap between our congregations
- Could help churches connect to mission work on a national and global level
- Work together to focus on justice and advocacy, climate change and mental health issues.
- Ministry Support visit from the presbytery including a retreat for leaders
- Presbytery could explore nontraditional paths to ministry and nontraditional pastoral calls (part time- bivocational)
- Open our mission trips to others in the presbytery
- Share our vocational skills such as nursing, consultant for stewardship, music, education and so forth