

COMMUNITY question

How has the Presbytery and/or your mission community been a community of Christ to you and your church?

- Difficult to find community in Presbytery because of lay folks changing each time.
- What is God's calling for us and how can the Presbytery help us in that area
- Showing personal interest
- Would like: more gatherings; mentoring of elders/pastors; committee chairs (ie COM) come to new elder training (or old!); relationships are crucial
- Helped Bethel with personnel and congregational crisis
- Communication between church and Presbytery needs to be more intimate and constant
- Baja leadership very positive, Ethiopian mission develop community of Christ, gives opportunity to individual congregations
- Let's educate congregations about values of foreign missions, not just local – need better ways to publicize good things presbytery does – inform better
- Presbytery presence at churches, communicate directly at churches
- Need to get to know Randy, Fred, _____ and others
- Boots on the ground
- Get a lawyer to do the crisis management so Randy can spend 90% of his time on positive forward activities
- Bloomery – very active church – mission-oriented – VERY conservative congregation, meet needs in community. Mission community helps with information for mission work; Ron and Anna Lee inspires our work – some from presbytery committees
- Pisgah – can find things on website, needs someone to search (like Ardis does) most members don't know without key contact
- _____ for communicators. Great for discerning a prison-family ministry.
- Info and experience sharing. Growth for people serving. Networking. Help with guidance calling a pastor
- Presbytery is a resource; connects us together.
- Party celebrations between churches/communities
- Cultural competence
- Find a new pastor at Harrisonburg First
- Moffett fund to support VBS, youth
- Relationship with people from far away (WV, Front Royal, Lexington) all know each other
- Web page set-up resources
- Lexington and Mt. Horeb after building fires, neighboring churches and presbytery representatives provided resources immediately
- Organic (??) community rel's stronger help the weaker
- Use to do a picnic but we have not had one for a while
- They held our hand while a church was in crisis
- Without the moneys that come from presbytery family helps us out
- Some churches are involved, we go on our own for doing mission work, also our work with habitat
- Good to have a resource to go to when we need help, when we need a minister or help
- We have a small church with older people, people feel warmth there, we need a vision
- Presbytery helps when we need it – feel a strong connection with presbytery – presbytery helps us get supply ministers
- We do have some children buy they come with grandparents – people are good at reaching out
- Presbytery has been a focal point for our church

COMMUNITY question

How has the Presbytery and/or your mission community been a community of Christ to you and your church?

- We need a community of churches so we know what other congregations are doing
- Presbyterian church has provided a place of worship; became Presbyterian after being raised Catholic
- Ministers – every member of the congregation – pastors are the ones leading worship
- Church is a rallying place for care
- Mission communities have struggled to be effective/relevant – perhaps individual congregations are the places of identification
- But we need to remember that we are the presbytery – not just the staff
- In a very personal way the presbytery has ministered to me – it is one of several faith comm.. that minister to me
- Strong presence for teaching elder – supporting/caring for
- Some strong worship opportunities have been created by worshipping together as mission communities – horse center in Lexington; men of faith; ice cream social
- Working with committees and as moderator has enhanced our congregation through mission community. Through my experience I have introduced my congregation to presbytery
- As moderator of pw and attending the gathering, I met a lot of people – I sat on council, traveled to synod, established relationships, exposed to many diverse feelings/sharing. Its been pleasant and uplifting
- I love presbytery meetings! I love worship at presbytery meetings
- Lay pastor program – important part to help small churches who can't afford a pastor, especially to my current church
- Learned how people love Christ within the presbytery meetings. They stick together and enjoy working with each other
- An event which was a retreat within the maury river mission community but hasn't happened again
- Disaster relief and given churches an opportunity to participate in the effort coordinated by presbytery
- Experience of being a liaison to churches at risk opened horizons for this person to know more about other churches throughout the presbytery
- Individual church has active programs added to by the support of presbytery
- Being able to disagree on floor of presbytery gives a sense of relationship beyond the initial question
- Smaller churches are able to do much more mission work with support of mission community
- Some feel isolated from mission communities but also seem as if that is the choice of the church
- Support most positive from presbyter is really good leadership in form of good interims
- Individuals of congregation are participants on presbytery leadership team/committees
- Church as a whole not tied particularly to presbytery
- When times were hard, guidance when looking for a pastor
- Coming up with help with solutions during hard times
- Getting together and meeting with missions
- Gave names for pastor when we didn't have one
- Meeting together
- Scholarship for students
- Retreats for our youth

COMMUNITY question

How has the Presbytery and/or your mission community been a community of Christ to you and your church?

- If divisiveness grows in a church it can become difficult to manage – overwhelming, presbytery provides pastoral help to move through the difficulties
- Not just times of difficulty but in all times the presbytery is there – reassuring presence
- Presbytery big support in crisis situations
- Work to bring or expand the sense of community to all elders – teaching and ruling and congregations – so that all can see the benefit of being connected through presbytery
- Eliminate the “them vs us” perception of presbytery – be present in other times, not just crisis
- Missions efforts and education/conference
- The connection part was missing! Only made the connection through problems at the church
- The presbytery handles crisis management very well! We don’t get to see the positive part of presbytery
- We need to see the missions that presbytery does
- Crisis management needs to be looked at a more positive attitude
- The mission community gives the churches an opportunity to share in the mission of the presbytery – the mission close to home are very important about we are called to do more as a global missions. Need to find a way to advertise the missions that presbytery is involved in.
- How do we take back to our congregations the work that is done for times a year at the presbytery meetings
- The Ethiopia and Baja mission trips were formed and begun at or through the presbytery
- Mission can grow the base that you need to grow
- Conflict and interim then worked with the presbytery they helped extensively in getting the church back on track. They are there to help you and people and churches need to call on them. There is a resource with the presbytery and it needs to be utilized.
- Randy was very involved in Williamsville Church with helping them. Said something as easy as painting the outside first has gotten some interest in the community. That impressed elders who were at arm’s length from presbytery. Personal interest is needed and appreciated.
- Talking to Committee on Ministry was willing to help and get answers
- Minister been there long time, hired someone and wasn’t a good fit. Then interims and “troubleshooter”. When leaving – presbytery helped tremendously
- Suggestion – community presbytery event involving local churches for speakers and fellowship. Intentional connections. Hymn sing; community events for all
- Presbytery helpful to get with a coach to do failure analysis to keep going and get to a place where it works for the church and the minister
- Have some people from Committee on Ministry train elders. No substitute for face to face
- Try to help church in the search; state that they not swing pendulum to the opposite, tell what did well and what didn’t do well
- Connectedness through mission community
- Sense of being in things together
- Monthly pastors luncheon
- Meeting regularly as a presbytery
- Network of varied experiences and wisdom to draw upon
- Active CRE program
- Experience of care and concern from expressions of presbytery – COM, CPM... sense of “not being alone”
- Outpouring of support for death of parent – prayer and communication
- Prayer requests

COMMUNITY question

How has the Presbytery and/or your mission community been a community of Christ to you and your church?

- Financially with grants – moffett
- Coming to support congregation in discernment
- Empathy for congregations – by committees and by staff
- Randy, CCD and COM worked with churches in Waynesboro
- Fear of “session takeover” not reality – presbytery listened – gave suggestions, not rules – offered help but not forced
- Our church was going through a difficult time. The presbytery sent groups to help and was successful
- When the church burned the presbytery and churches within the presbytery came out to help and offer support
- The trips to Mississippi during Katrina connected our churches with churches in Mississippi. This created a mission in local community
- Parish of the Valleys have joint missions
- Parish model is positive
- Our mission team at church had few opportunities to go to good banks – we didn’t know how to put this together and utilized Doug to help. Now we have 10 churches to help 125 families
- Had the Ethiopian dinner at our church which sparked greater mission outside. Now have people on committees in presbytery
- Small church community attentive to collect funds for CCAP, homeless shelter
- Appreciated the grant that presbytery gave to Paddy Run
- When presbytery has asked to be a part of committees – increase participation
- Eye-opening experience serving on the search committee – church is beyond what he sits in a pen
- Eastern panhandle mission community – providing place to do mission together; forum for sharing concerns and hopes
- For larger churches – help fill pulpit. Mission cooperation – what can we do for presbytery? Should be providing money and people for committees – community investment.
- Eastern panhandle mission community – less project-driven; more people-driven – educate elders, outreach: teens, college, worship
- Mountain valley mission community – more project-driven
- Personal – recent graduate of seminary – support – indispensable – process – nurture – support through difficulties
- Individual churches going through very difficult process/division over ordination issues – COM/presbytery has been invaluable with the church every step. Carry on
- Value of presbytery in coming around to support, grant direction, supply pastor/leaders
- Churches supporting other churches coming around, filling in for one another
- Helped church find a pastor
- Helped visioning process when looking for an associate
- Presbytery was willing to be flexible with search process
- Moffett fund allowed church to do ministries it could not have otherwise
- Pointed way to a grant that helped church get communications equipment
- Folks willing to donate time to church to get communications equipment set up
- When church was frustrated about their pastor becoming interim GP, the presbytery helped them work through their frustrations
- Malcolm Brownlee has helped any number of churches with visioning
- Networking

COMMUNITY question

How has the Presbytery and/or your mission community been a community of Christ to you and your church?

- When Stones Chapel Church closed, their hymnals, Bibles, church bell, communion table, pulpit were given to another church when sanctuary burned
- Missions trip out of mission communities makes mission for small churches more feasible
- In times of personal crisis for a pastor, the folks in presbytery gave comfort and support
- Presbytery staff persons are helpful to congregations
- Campus ministry
- Committee on Ministry provides pastoral care to the clergy – through prayer, personal contacts, etc
- Presbytery is not “them” – it is us
- Extended area of congregation
- There to lift up, support, give guidance
- Westminster – problem solving
- Financial support
- Acting GP helps churches feel connected – First GP to come to church
- Communication other than written
- Acting GP helps link presbytery to churches
- Meaningful involvement in crisis times – very helpful
- Female pastors took new pastor in and mentored/cared for her
- Hospital worker – met with people hard to build community unless you make it happen
- Mission community - eastern panhandle and Potomac highlands functional and working
- Local church – shared mission, love and care for each other
- Ecumenical relationships – community collaboration and cooperation, joint worship, shared mission
- Presbytery meetings where people get to talk with others
- Mission trips – see community building at work
- Several churches get together for breakfast to learn what other churches are doing
- Good to focus on positive things, but equally important to deal with divisive people and issues – behaviors
- Education bullying
- Get to know each other – address key issues head on
- As a presbytery – need to change the idea of how we are presbytery (us/them, quarterly meeting)
- Gathering around tables – helpful learning from one another is good
- Our mission community is active and doing well – know each other – take care of our own lawn mowing
- Helped in process of finding a new pastor
- Serving on committees – forming relationships focus us to grow in knowledge and gifts in order to do committee work
- Expands our perception of what it means to be church
- Helps us honor and work with other denominations
- Pastoral support from colleagues and presbytery executive
- Prayers for each other and support in times of crisis
- We meet on social occasions that invalues trust and an ability to talk to one another
- With loss of a husband, various communities stepped up to add love and support for my loss
- Eastern panhandle is very active with music festivals, teaching of elders, etc
- Support within the community for family, especially the children

COMMUNITY question

How has the Presbytery and/or your mission community been a community of Christ to you and your church?

- In a specialized ministry of the church, we have a church community to anchor us
- Part of a church family that is extended to this larger community. Strong support system and sense of community through connection by Doug Sensabaugh.
- Be aware of the disconnect that they exist in our churches
- Members who are not active need to be included in the church and community
- Work hard to make connections within churches and community
- Share in the life and concerns of the community, responding to the needs of others and relationships.
- To share core values, objectives and have interaction. This is represented by the Greek word Koinonia—sharing. Also it is the sharing of similar spiritual values.
- Most of this is already said above: Providing opportunities to share ideas, styles of worship, mission etc with other churches, supporting each other, keeping informed
- Providing friendships and networking contacts in all areas throughout the Shenandoah Valley.
- Meeting people from neighboring churches, counties through Baja Mission trip, Montreat, Massanetta conferences, Presbyterian Campus Ministry—friendships that stay with us after we go home
- Feeling the sense of home when walking into other Presbyterian churches in the area

MIRACLE question

What is your sense of what God is calling us to be and to do?

- God is calling us to be more spiritual, caring, loving, forgiving community, more accepting and understanding of other opinions.
- Reduce conflicts of understandings and beliefs.
- Agree to disagree in loving and understanding way.
- Accept differences
- Keep working on God's work
- Give unresolvable differences to God
- Let's get to know one another better and pray for one another and go to different places to do so.
- Ruling elder step into our minister role.
- Community of people who love and are about one another
- Spending more money on mission – up to 50%
- Consolidate congregations and share buildings
- Be for things rather than against things – no more lines that divide only lines that connect
- Forbearance toward one another
- Everyone participate and contribute
- Church is family no matter what
- Relationship more important than being right
- Church should say and do what Jesus said and did
- Humility – don't claim to know more than we actually do know
- Work of God
- Good teaching of the Word
- Going back to basics
- Understanding the working and time presbyteria
- Love
- Faithfulness
- Minister and nurture each other
- Know one another
- Individual has be for himself in spiritual, the building part. Presbytery need to be for themselves and to show leadership. Presbytery is a body that we need to believe that we are ambassadors for the church. We need to be flexible with the times, we need to standup with issues with the world as we are time. We need to stick to the Scriptures.
- We must embrace all human kind
- Presbytery is pretty good and churches may not be participating to know how good it is
- Presbytery should be more involved in missions and encourage churches to be more evangelical
- Love one another for all and go outside ourselves to get involved. We need to bring others to God
- How are we developing more mission communities? Do an outreach to bring the unchurched to God
- More ministers and elders live within the church community. We need to develop the job of helping us be faithful disciples within the world
- God is calling us to equip servants with the tools that show us the Christian way within to others. Extend the Good news by example
- We need to be a model of non judging

MIRACLE question

What do you think is God's desire for us in terms of our life together in the midst of differences?

- Emphasize positive beliefs
- Try not to emphasize differences
- If you just can't stand to stay together – go quietly away
- Where possible, no matter which way the church goes, support the church
- The church at love is more important than its sometimes misguided leadership, so stay with the church. Human leadership will come and go, but Christ will remain.
- Accountability, work together
- Stay positive
- Jesus first
- Learn to know each other outside theological differences – stand beside each other in times of need
- Listen to others, but do others want to listen to yours?
- Hope of reconciliation
- Feel that GA tries to dictate our morals. What is happening that members are leaving?
- Everyone loves and spends time in the Word
- Sit at the table together and ministry together
- Respect – no parking lot meetings
- Diversity is ok! Part of God's plan
- God desires Bible study at presbytery meeting! To be immersed in the Word so that we find out identity and purpose in Scripture
- Storytelling – discipleship – learning to be self-sacrificing
- Focus on togetherness more than differences
- Change focus of how we are together
- Structure can help build relationships
- Hearty respect for each other
- Be able to give and take
- Don't let issues tear us apart
- Mission unites churches that are theologically different
- We can learn from our Ethiopian brothers and sisters. They can help us see what is important about being the church
- What kind of fruit are we growing?
- Some of us think that we can discuss the basic questions about the church whether we are conservatives or liberals

MIRACLE question

What aspects of a presbytery at its best do you believe are so vital that they should remain core to its identity?

- Have a set of tenants so that we know what we stand for – United Core of Values
- Don't mind presbytery as support (more \$, more skills). There in a crisis is fine...but the minister is the hub of the church – for local folks- minister is CONNECTED to presbytery when local folks go for help
- Coming together to worship
- Calling pastors/providing pastors
- Mission
- What is essential to mission?
- Balancing needs of pastor and family with needs of church
- Encourage innovative ministry, provide opportunities for sharing stories (i.e. Covenant's new worshipping community; Front Royal's backpack ministry) invite other's from other presbyteries
- Worship
- Mission – doing together what one of us can't do alone (resources, education, organization, communication)
- Community
- Robert's Rules of Order
- Center/focus (ie presbytery) to be part of
- Presbytery executive
- Pastoral care of pastors
- More support for pastors
- Fellowship and relationship building
- Today's format has been very productive
- We can disagree but care for one another
- Other presbyteries are often about government, but older ones were smaller and more intimate
- Presbytery has a role of inspiring worship or getting together with others
- In presbytery we rarely get a chance to fellowship
- Often the governing of presbytery is the overruling activity of presbytery
- Mission communities need to get involved outside their own communities

MIRACLE question

What qualities (i.e. strengths, structure, processes, values, beliefs, etc) do you believe should be foundational as this presbytery moves into the future?

- Instill hope and encouragement
- Communication
- Offer love to dissenters
- Part gracefully in necessary
- Faith (keep maintaining and moving forward)
- Draw strength from Christ
- Mutual respect
- Christ-like love
- Christ
- Scripture
- Robert's Rules
- More Saturday meetings instead of Tuesdays
- Mission relationships in the Presbytery, Baja mission trips, Ethiopian partnerships, Living Waters
- Our committee structure to get the work done in the presbytery
- Invite other congregations to join us online (presbytery meetings online). Need to start doing more of this (social media; ie Skype)
- Shenandoah Presbytery does worship well
- Live the life that Jesus did
- Mutual love and trust
- Teach us to be disciples who have confidence to spread the good news
- Work within the mission to develop mission work
- Member exchanges with other churches
- Structure is becoming leaner

MIRACLE question
What would the perfect Presbytery look like?

- Spiritual leadership (need to develop it)
- Good relationship with God
- Retreat to grow
- Denomination not flexible enough
- Perfect presbytery can't exist since we're humans, so we have to deal with it
- A community to gather together to share how they gospel has transformed lives
- A dynamic organization: pro active – for “outside”
- A community of saints!
- More leadership interactions
- Stronger mission communities
- What we are doing today – we would still be doing what we ARE in community – spreading the Word
- Everyone loves and spends
- Community of believers that spend a lot more time talking about Book of Confessions not Book of Order
- “leaner” – fewer people on certain committees
- New fresh look at representation in general, in particular in committee structure – representation overall but not on each committee
- Committee sizes – mileage costs considered; use more technology
- System admirable: has worked. Sometimes get in the way
- Love one another – father and I are one. Sometimes we strive for one in consensus, rather than one in love for Christ and one another
- Must be willing to do things differently: Ø enough ministers, merge?, bi-vocational pastors
- Presbytery live within its means – personnel costs – if that does happen, what then are our priorities?
- Can presbytery offices be moved to Massanetta?
- All programs take so much energy and time – love one another; do Christ's Kingdom work
- Not a spending problem, but a giving problem. Disconnect.
- How do we increase giving to Presbytery? Need inspiration – clear defined mission – balanced budget
- Based in churches and connected through internet – how do we collaborate and involve people not already involved?
- Perhaps less administrative based, more network of pastors/elders
- Christ-like - Loving, healing, serving, doing God's will
- Smells like fresh baked bread
- Sounds like children laughing
- Tastes like fresh strawberries
- Feels like grandma
- Looks like all people worshipping together
- Looks like groups of people that treat each other the way they want to be treated
- Image: lights – up and down valley – energy coming in to broader commun. Presbytery grows this for us
- Mission focused; not maintaining building – go out in community!
- Mission begins at home church – practice where we are
- Greater techni_____ facility within and between congregations
- Awareness of up-to-date communications

MIRACLE question

What would the perfect Presbytery look like?

- Spiritual leadership
- Flexibility. We are typically too rigid
- Made up of churches focusing upon the Lordship of Christ
- Small is better
- Presbytery agenda: why do folks need to tell about stuff that is printed in the agenda? Why not just deal with things that need voting on and spend a greater portion of our time in fellowship and meaningful programs.
- An ideal presbytery would be the sort of things people enjoyed coming to
- Presbytery needs to be a safe place
- Trusting each other
- An “off season” presbytery meeting overnight...perhaps at a place like Massanetta Springs
- Presbytery be a useful resource to congregations. Could be online sharing of “what works” innovation
- Provide a time at each meeting that is educational
- Presbytery should be invisible like a good waiter
- Presbytery should be a prophetic witness even when it’s unpopular
- Enable a variety of in-depth groups for spiritual growth across the presbytery
- Stop worrying about numbers and budgets – worry about faithful obedience
- Presbytery needs to include churches of all sizes in activities and plans
- Empower people to fulfill their call
- Continue to include a variety of views – theological, social, etc
- Have more silence in meetings, committees, etc
- Remember that I have an 8th grade education – avoid the “insider language”. Be aware of diversity in education, technological skills, life experiences
- Stronger emphasis on mission
- Take a day to serve together such as the Massanutten working event. Take a Saturday to worship at a church then go out in teams to serve together, instead of meeting
- Let the community help such as JMU coming in to help at a food bank like they did at Cooks Creek
- Churches are competing instead of working together
- If God has a hand in this – working together, open, receptive fell, a safe place to be to share your thoughts, an appreciation of each other to be a loving community
- Start with God, Christ, Bible, Spirit
- We define our churches as “the liberal one”, “the conservative one”, “the” – we create disunity, distrust
- Having lesser boundaries – the church in not secular – it is in the grey. In the world but not of it.
- Place of affirmation – no a place of definition
- Professionalism to volunteerism
- How do we get away from the central office in Harrisonburg and back into our communities where our churches are located.
- Leadership brings spiritual guidance as well
- General Presbyter: gathering what is best in everyone and bringing it before the body to share it. What is the point in the GP? Does the GP bring a vision? Other congregations develop a vision to have a pastor develop it. Who are we calling if we don’t know who or what we are calling? Are we selecting someone who will accept a package? What percentage is looking inside and what percentage is looking outside? 40% 60% we have a Presbytery with high expectations

MIRACLE question

What would the perfect Presbytery look like?

- Trust and honor and respect each other's opinions
- Trust the work of the community
- Meeting basic needs of all the people
- Safety issues addressed
- Know each other
- Learning to agree to disagree
- The presbytery fully funded to accomplish goals
- How do we nurture stewardship?
- Trust that the money goes where it should go
- Continue training for higher ideals
- Strive for common ground which is Jesus Christ, but to understand to disagree in a loving and civil manner and to find common ground.
- To connect with each other for support. Trust in God to work through us
- Working together with mutual goals
- Worship at the core
- Doing God's work – being His hands and feet
- An example for churches
- Church is where you feel that you belong
- Build each other up within the church
- Rethink structure to offer more opportunity for missions
- Could presbytery help us with meaningful worship
- Meetings be a model for meaningful worship. The best it can be
- A tangible blessing to take back to church (bear, candles, crosses)
- Affordable camp for children and young people to go
- Doing what needs to be done
- A place of doing
- All-day called meeting
- Flexibility in standards
- Place people want to come to.
- Planned fun in presbytery
- Using technology better (committee meetings, allowing people to be where they are and still participate)
- Place to come without fear to express our opinions
- Emphasis on thanksgiving – an awareness of what God has done for us
- Visions of the church would be different. A new center of the church where everyone was focused instead of the scattering of churches we have today
- In the past, churches were center of community and people participated
- Energy and enthusiasm
- What would presbytery look like if all people were engaged in church
- How do we involve all in the life of the church
- Presbytery is made up of all of us and we should take responsibility
- How do we become relevant in the lives of others and not just trying to meet the basic needs of the presbytery
- Why do we go to church? How do we grow a passion for worship in the future
- Miracle would generate abundance – people, gifts, financial support
- More nurturing between churches
- Caring for congregations by congregations

MIRACLE question

What would the perfect Presbytery look like?

- More opportunities between churches/mission communities
- Identify ourselves as the presbytery instead of individual churches
- Presbytery – more pastoral care and less bureaucratic
- Longtime concept is that presbytery is a distant dictator
- What if we had an annual presbytery-wide worship service?
- Fellowship-picnic dinners including a common goal for presbytery – reason to come – fundraising mission
- Community outreach
- Mission fairs
- Moving between churches
- Use technology to help us be better informed rather than trying to get information
- “Breaking down walls” of individual churches to cross “pollinate” for good of all
- Facebook page attracts younger members
- When you know each other, then trust is likely to happen. If there is trust then more likely respect for each other even during times of disagreement
- If the presbytery interacted with church in positive times instead of just times of crisis then the feelings toward the presbytery would improve
- Presbytery is “them”; the churches are “us”. Need to get rid of that feeling
- Open, inclusive, missional, spiritual
- “where everybody knows your name”
- Doesn’t matter what size of church you come from, but all gifts matter
- Nurturing, enthusiastic about building bridges. “they” (presbytery) should not worry about money
- “They” would only be “we”. Should be a communal pronoun
- We are it! Do something yourself. If we want to get involved, we need to be involved
- different attitude – positive attitude
- local mission (not just mission in Ethiopia, etc) but in our churches’ local communities
- be more involved in Shenandoah Presbytery community of faith
- local churches in Presbytery could do more together in mission
- understand other churches’ needs
- pray for other churches weekly
- committee of people who share the gospel and to share how it has helped others. Dynamic “out there” organization to help proactive in the area. More interaction with leaders
- kind of presbytery for faith-building for family
- empower the staff to be positive – resource for churches to be great churches
- inspirational leadership. Charismatic, encouraging. Someone who makes us think we can do/be more than we are
- address the real and perceived barriers between the presbytery and congregations
- dream. Preaching, worship liturgical movement; new and innovative experiences
- more events like this round tables. Taking fellowship mission, vision
- leadership development
- presbytery exist to empower the congregation to fulfill their church’s mission
- living faith of the dead, not the dead of faith of the living
- authentic and appropriate
- help congregations deal with change
- not locked into denomination or locality
- development of more moveable feasts

MIRACLE question

What would the perfect Presbytery look like?

- to breathe new life into whole structure less central structure
- more involvement and life in church as the churches are involved in mission
- communion served each time we gather
- less structure and more emphasis on doing the work of Christ
- do we have a budget crisis or a giving crisis? Or a crisis of vision?
- How can the presbytery best serve the gospel?
- How do we adapt to attract younger people? How can the “church” present the good news to the younger generation and still be true to the message?
- Message needs to be authentic and needs to exude an openness/sacrificial giving and sharing in the pain and suffering of the world – undefensive sharing of opinions and differences
- Share positive images of god – speak the trust in love
- God doesn’t call us to be successful, but to be faithful
- Need to close gaps – more in-touch relationships with presbytery staff – lay members have to be willing to get involved
- How to involve more members from individual congregations – communication is essential!!
- How to overcome differences maybe resulting from past conflict – forget US
- How to attract and keep young people. When do you meet? Are times user friendly for all?
- To involve young adults you have to plan “activities” and meetings that can fit their schedule
- Miracle would be to get more young involved – how?
- Show importance of God in their lives – involve more in mission trips
- Provide more activities for involvement that will appeal – what?
- Response to catastrophe is often effective but short-lived
- Increase awareness of needs – share sense of urgency to keep awareness of others as service to God
- Able to follow Spirit’s leading
- Biblically based; living out the Word
- Well resourced – money is not _____ (??)
- Pentecost – vision of what God can do, not just what we can do.
- Revival
- Mutual support and mutual trust – look for signs that God is at work not statistics or accordance with rules
- Appreciate and support each other
- Presbytery is seen as friend and strengthener of churches, not as a policeman
- Presbytery as enabler of congregations
- Do we need a presbytery building?
- Concentration on missions, not survival
- ____ our abundant resources, not our scarcity ????

MISCELLANEOUS comments

- Recent Maundy Thursday service that involved the churches in northern part of mission community. Shared choirs, bell choirs and ministers with about 90 folks worshiping at Mt. Carmel. Meaningful service, strong sense of community, involvement of youth from Mt. Carmel in the service, sentiments expressed that we should do more of this....however mission community events generally involve only about half of the churches making us question if the communities are too large geographically. Also positive comments regarding shared mission projects both here and in far away places.
- My own thoughts- that have no questions from you

I am still new- I have only been here 5 years and only now have I begun to understand the way this presbytery works. I think the Presbytery has been in Transition longer than before Tom Hay left- and the effects of that transition is just now being felt.

When I can ask 4 different senior members what is the purpose of PLT (formerly Council) and get 4 different answers- it made it hard to understand anything.

What I learned was that the Presbytery committees don't know what the other committees do- when I asked to serve on Office and Personnel- I was told they meet 4 times a year and have a lunch. Of course that is the running joke in our committee because sometimes we meet more than COM

But in the long run this has not scared me off- instead it has frustrated me to learn the inner working of this Presbytery so that I can fulfill my ordination vows- to serve within the body that I belong too- which is Presbytery. However I wonder about those who do not have the desire I do- and have been put off and who think they will wait till the dust ever settles. It has not since I have been here.

- We think the primary goals of presbytery should be to see to it that the churches are provided with well-qualified ministers and to provide the ministers with such support as they need to grow and thrive as enthusiastic leaders of their congregations. As part of these efforts, presbytery needs to continue its efforts to respond quickly to the needs of troubled congregations
- One suggestion that the Tri-annual visits to churches could strengthen community relationships by occurring once a year with a specified time during a session meeting or other time to share things of interest at both the host church and others in the community
- Does presbytery draw more from churches or give more to churches? General feeling was that presbytery draw more than it gives. Presbytery has 2 jobs: 1) government, 2) witness/mission. We tend to argue about government, but we have great reports on mission. Mission is a unifying of churches that are theologically different
- What is our view of presbytery? Does our structure align with our vision.

MISCELLANEOUS comments

- Officer training at Massanetta Springs sponsored by presbytery
- No technical resources in presbytery which might tell you what to do in the way of putting up monitors, etc
- Technical help needs to be more available
- Use of visual aids is important to attract younger people
- “We are one body” laity, pastor and elders
- Challenges of geography
- Broad and changing demographics/economics in presbytery. BIG difference between Harrisonburg and small, rural mountain communities
- Celebrate the small things we do (especially by small churches) and point to them as examples of the Kingdom of God
- Presbytery generate a monthly bulletin insert that highlights various aspects of ministry across the presbytery
- Sometimes it seems the work of is a mile wide and an inch deep. We NEED to become a foot wide and a mile deep. Stop doing more; do less but focus intently, relentlessly on doing a few things excellently

MISSION questions
What can the congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery do
better together than separately?

- Activities together – picnics/music, work sessions
- Baja and Ethiopia international mission
- Collective worship
- Everything, mission and work projects
- Partnership with Ethiopia has changed my life and my family's lives.
- First lay pastor program – one of the best learning/worship experiences
- Feel connected to wider church, mainly through PW
- The ways we have been encouraged through mission trips – Gulf coast – Rehoboth – when our church had a fire, other churches reached out with gifts. Day after the fire, Randy, Lisa, and Tom Rhyne arrived as well as folks from Buckton Church – solidarity.
- Mountain Valley Mission community ministerial fellowship
- PFF Gail Smith, want to personally know recipients of support (struggle with gifts no so designated)
- Have seen churches do intense small-scale ministry
- Collective efforts that we have observed mostly are related to the initiatives of the Eastern Panhandle Mission Community. This year's Presbytery budget cuts for our community have hampered its mission. We do joint officer training, host a banquet for high school students, have worship experiences in music festivals, and offer other joint events that build up congregations.
- We support a PCUSA missionary, and that began a few years ago because of Presbytery encouragement.
- Team up for mission trips and even local mission projects.
- Support the poor, those less fortunate than ourselves. and other charities we fund raise for
- Support mission work at home and abroad, including missionaries in the field.

- Worldwide mission are easier to do together than local-
- Share experiences, share youth groups, share technical expertise and share resources in worship
- mission fairs, mission trips, youth activities, kit construction for Church World Service.

- Habitat for Humanity
- Gift of Heart kits
- Mission trips
- Examples of working well together include the Ethiopian partnership; Baja mission teams; the resource center; disaster relief; Presbyterian campus ministry.
- together churches can provide better training for new elders. Through projects such as Disciple's Kitchen, the back pack program, Baja trip, and iCARE congregations join together in mission. More is accomplished and relationships are enhanced. Together they seek answers to questions like: in the summer, how do we help families who are in the back pack program.
- Praying together for regional needs and/or concerns. Projects similar to the CWS kits. Perhaps working harder at setting up regional Emergency Preparedness.
- Fundraising—Baja Mission trip gets more money/ toy and clothes donations because so many churches help out

MISSION questions

What can the congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery do better together than separately?

- The Parish of the Pastures (3 churches with shared Pastor and Associate Pastor) has successfully worked together to organize a youth group with more kids, resources, and support, and a more effective relay for life team
- Share ideas
- Mission Trips
- Makes “mission possible”
- CWS Kits – “we’re all part of the team
- Conferences & retreats
- Youth mission trips
- Baja mission trip (started one church, then expanded to mission community and whole presbytery)
- Many churches have overlapping interest needs to be congregation driven not presbytery driven. Presbytery not driving mission but sharing information to help churches find overlapping interests in mission. But Ethiopian partnership needs to be presbytery driven
- Call for disaster kits allows us to feel connected as smaller churches; to participate where you can make an impact
- Joining together for fellowship activities. Work projects, hymn sings, picnic
- Resources for mission – individual in the church went to a specific mission project. Unite as community and utilize Living Waters for the World. 4 cents a Meal take up offering by children.
- Collective wisdom and shared resources
- COM, CCD, PDA
- Professional development, oversight and resourcing
- Camp Paddy Run
- CRE training
- Baja mission trip
- Youth events at Massanetta Springs
- Employment opportunity clearinghouse for tentmaking pastors and spouses of pastors
- The international mission as well as sponsor more collective
- Elders need to be better informed/trained for the job – better communication needed. Ministers should allow more leadership opportunities
- Teaching elders with training within mission community
- Mission churches together on mission trips to such places as Haiti
- Together we can do great work in our community and our world
- Christmas shoe boxes and other mission gives us a sense of being able to do something greater than ourselves
- We are a presbytery of small churches, but together we can accomplish greater goals such as youth activities
- Worship together can enhance our experience, such as combined choirs and pulpit swap
- Presbytery helps us to fill pulpits when pulpit supply is needed. We also install and ordain ministers together. Congregations need knowledge that we help each other
- Our 4 cents a Meal offering and least coin offering together make these mission effective impact on hunger in the world.

MISSION questions

What difference does it make when we join together?

- Support larger projects
- More gets done,
- Share ideas
- Networking
- Fellowship
- Learning experience
- Critical mass on projects makes us powerful
- Share solutions to common problems
- All churches face similar problems
- Promoting the greater community
- All churches and communities and congregations benefit and grow
- We join in a fellowship of God's children from other churches and to remember that we are stronger and more powerful when we join together
- PDA assisted/mission comm.. – worked together
- Big Event – workshops, mainly worship
- PW – B'day offering
- Zaccheus Kitchen, PDA bucket program, Strasburg Fund for the Future, 4 cents a meal, meals for children, Moffett grand fund, GA scholarship fund
- When people who share a faith get together, it is encouraging and helps us learn from each other.
- More funds and hands available to get the work done.

- The support is larger- but any support is better than none
- We get a lot of resources up front.
- This reinforces the connectional aspect of our church. We benefit from the activity beyond the product itself through unity of purpose

- The energy is increased when there are more people participating together.
- Coming together to accomplish work we are unable to do separately is one way to live out our connectional relationships.
- More opinions and interpretations are voiced and considered. Some projects requiring "manpower" are possible, where individual Churches would not consider them.
- We can get a lot more done working together, "12 weak backs are more effective than one strong back"
- We learn new ideas from others
- There is a greater sense of commitment in a group

- Power in numbers
- Diversity
- More ideas
- Shared financial, coordination responsibilities
- There is strength and comfort in our joining together
- We have an opportunity to see how we do things differently and therefore we learn from one another

MISSION questions

What difference does it make when we join together?

- Eastern panhandle mission community is out numbered in the community from other denominations, but together we can advertise our activities that will help spread the Good News
- During times of difficulty in your life, we have a church family to help hold us up
- The faith community treats pastors as “real” people. This fellowship helps our pastors and their families be with friends who accept them unconditionally
- Pastoral care that we provide to one another is invaluable. Presbytery is ready to help any church with whatever concerns exist
- We grow individually and as a church when we come together
- Funds are given to various church for missions
- Better together
- Officer training
- Faster work with neighboring congregations regardless of denomination affiliation
- More gets done; share ideas; support larger projects
- Denominational mission
- Leave a bigger footprint – yet not minimize a small footprint
- Not feeling alone – find common issues and desires – theologically (reminder that even when we don't feel presence of God, God is with us and we are with each other)

MISSION questions

How has your congregation been empowered by the Presbytery to be a center for mission?

- ?? Define mission
- Baja/Ethiopia
- Bloomery Church women do outreach; men do maintenance and building (not familiar with presbytery stuff, as much as women are). Would like to see presbytery leaders more often in their church with big event invitation. Sharing idea!
- The Presbytery funnels “Four Cents” funds through us for the Churchville Food Pantry.
- The Hunger Action Enabler is on the ball and is a great resource for mission.
- The Baja Trip, Ethiopian Partnership, and commissioning of missionaries from our presbytery have helped keep our congregation in touch with missions issues.
- By sending out info- it has allowed one of my churches to support a missionary- that they never would have thought of before- otherwise it does not
- We received a \$2000 grant from the Moffett Fund for our Food Pantry and Disciples Kitchen
- Grant moneys available can enable to churches to accomplish things beyond their fiscal means. Presbytery makes us aware of speakers from the missionary field when they are available.
- It has not - we have generated that initiative
- We think mission provides the best examples of presbytery working
- together for a common purpose. Presbytery can mobilize attention to mission projects for the presbytery as a whole and provide assistance as well to different congregations’ mission projects. The Moffett for Mission grants have helped our mission projects at SPC, and we have participated in the Ethiopian Partnership. Our First Sunday contributions to fight hunger provide another example of effective presbytery cooperation in a mission project. We think church-based campus ministry is an area where our common efforts might be expanded.
- MPC has been very blessed by its involvement in the Baja mission trips. We have also had youth attend the Montreat Youth Conferences with Presbytery. Members always come home with renewed faith, energy and commitment to mission from these trips.
- Financial support such as the Moffett Fund has made it possible for children to take mission trips.
- In the last few years, helping to secure Ministers has been a major benefit. Communication of concerns, resources, and needs is of utmost importance.
- We don’t really understand the question
- Our congregation is older but we want to extend what we can to help other churches
- Understanding “the presbytery” as we elders of this part of Virginia, we have been supportive of JMU PCM spring break trips to Nashville, the Baja mission trip, and local missions (salvation army, food pantries, clothing drives, Western State etc).
- Other churches we have been part of, outside of Rocky Spring have given us ideas for opportunities for mission trips, and supporting local missions like the school backpack food donations, habitat for humanity, meals on wheels and community kitchen, potato garden for local food pantry, volunteering at food pantries.
- The PDA shower trailer and other opportunities the presbytery offers as mission opportunities we can participate in
- Moffett fund
- 4 Cents A Meal that support local food pantry
- Legal questions could be answered

MISSION questions

How has your congregation been empowered by the Presbytery to be a center for mission?

- Resource for help
- More contact from presbytery staff – not enough “checking in”
- Lack of understanding of presbytery from teaching elders to ruling elder – leads to lack of mission empowerment
- Need presbytery to be chaplain more of the time – not a fireman
- Mission communities need to be revamped
- Ethiopian partnership – church to church
- Volunteer farm as a model for what others may pursue
- We need to empower the individuals to become involved

MISSION questions
What is Shenandoah Presbytery's role as a resource
for mission and how have you experienced it?

- Mission trips
- Baja leadership and strong base developed at presbytery
- Leadership in defining mission directions
- Mission can bring people in
- Baja, Ethiopia, Katrina (twice mentioned)
- Get more people engaged in mission
- Communication
- Mission community
- Need more attention from presbytery
- Mission community needs to be looked at for small rural remote communities and large town ministers
- Spread the Gospel
- With regard to mission, I can thank presbytery for at least one activity. We call it the Community Lunch Bunch. It was originally funded by a grant from the Moffett Fund of presbytery. Each month the group, open to everybody, meets at a church for lunch and socializing, plus a presentation on a topic of neighborhood interest. Presbytery has also been helpful in providing resources for Oxford's Education Committee.
- Presbytery can organize mission projects which one church can't do alone.
- With information of where help is needed both at home and abroad, through shared opportunities in our mission community and the Presbytery
- Mission education. Homer Cornish. Mission close to home. Mission as evangelism. Provide medical care, humanitarian help, in places where direct evangelism is not permitted.

- Have not used the presbytery for this.
- We have supported a missionary because of the presbytery's encouragement.
- We have contacted iCare/ they made a presentation/ we now support two orphans.
- Presbytery helps inform the local congregation of mission opportunities and provide means by which local congregations can get involved.
- Presbytery informs us of needs and provides communication of project results or Missionary accomplishments, inspiring future involvement, either contributions or personnel. Baja Mission is an example.
- : Presbytery shares and distributes information about many mission projects like Hunger, the Ethiopian Partnership, Baja trip, etc. They help to coordinate missionaries' visits to the area. They are central in planning leadership events and mission fairs.
- Organizing and inviting us on mission trips, and asking for support: Baja Mission Trip, PDA trips, heifer project,
- We feel Shenandoah Presbytery could keep us more informed on what opportunities are out there, what other churches are doing.

- Funding for Ethiopian travel
- Funding for Youth Mission Trips (Very thankful for Moffett Fund support!)
- Scholarships for college students
- Three young adults experienced the mission trip to Baja
- Grants are given to mission work in individual, local missions
- Resource center helps church's mission
- Doug Sensabaugh's emails about missions, in the larger world – school kits, health kits, etc

MISSION questions

What is Shenandoah Presbytery's role as a resource for mission and how have you experienced it?

- Committee on Church Development and other committees have brought various missionaries to our church
- Ethiopia, Baja, Katrina
- World Wide Ministries – have resources without “recreating the wheel”
- PDA – assessment for presbytery
- Mission trips within the valley – are we spreading the News
- Website needs a search function
- Having a mission focus – info given on a particular topic at every meeting of presbytery
- Create advisory board or mission at presbytery level

MISSION questions
How has Shenandoah Presbytery enhanced your
understanding of Denominational mission?

- Community of people coming together to worship together
- Leadership interaction
- Witness of Christ
- Need more education outreach
- Get people involved more versus just giving money
- More recognition for individual efforts
- More engagement by small congregations
- Worldwide mission of the presbytery to nurture congregations and to spread the Gospel throughout the community
- Missional leadership?
- To provide information and opportunities for mission. We have experienced it through newsletter information, speakers, and committee work.

- Other than focusing on mission partners it hasn't- what about mission that are happening in US- we hear a lot about foreign missions but not about here?

- "It has not."
- In general, our Session members do not have strong sense for the goals, roles or impact of the Presbytery. There is not a strong sense of connection to the Presbytery. Perhaps this is a matter of educating our Session of the opportunities to serve on this level or having Presbytery help equip the Session to better serve the congregation.
- Communications from Missionaries or Projects give insight into needs and inspiration to contribute.
- Send out a periodical biennial publication on what is being done in mission and what opportunities are available for us—This may already exist but we don't know about it

- Missionary visits
- Ethiopian partnership
- PDA
- Ethiopian partnership
- Doug Sensabaugh/communications
- PDA
- Help is there but not communicated – elders and designated leaders in congregation need to get more involved in sharing information
- How can we connect with great church (Presbytery, general assembly)
- Through offerings and explanation of mission
- Fund missionaries throughout the world and missions throughout the world
- Such projects as the Heifer Project have been brought to churches through our denomination
- Each church has adopted missionaries
- Ethiopia partnership is invaluable. This partnership is teaching us about evangelism. We are becoming the recipients of these missions
- Prayers are given to missions and to various churches

NURTURE questions

How has Shenandoah Presbytery helped you personally grow in your Christian faith?

- Presbytery-wide conferences are good.
- By becoming elder after serving as deacon, I realize the many different roles we must play to effectively communicate the Christian faith to others; committee work; General Assembly.
- It hasn't
- Inspirational and supportive of our faith
- support from committee on prep for ministry, support from staff and others when you undertake a major responsibility, support of acting general presbyter—kudos for how he is carrying out this responsibility, support thru CRE training process.
- "It hasn't for me."
- Our pastors believe that Presbytery has helped them grown personally in their Christian faith. Other church members who have served on Presbytery committees have experienced growth in understanding what it means to be a connectional church.
- Those attending have appreciated hearing different perspectives and expressing theirs. Various retreats and youth camps have provided inspiration in the past.

- Given me a place to worship, lessons on how to live the Christian faith
- Supported JMU Campus ministry which one of our members is a part
- Supported Baja Mission Trip which several of our members attended
- Some in our congregation are not aware of how the presbytery is involved
- Resource center, Sunday school material
- Small church task force
- The big event – need to know what is available in advance and survey needed
- Spring gathering – advance notice
- Need old style communication for those without computers
- Learned years ago that there were lots of needs, especially small churches that could not maintain church and they closed down! I hated that. I was instrumental in starting the lay pastor program. Relationships are important
- More people need to step u and relationships are formed. amazing the growth I've had at lay pastor program and the relationships that were formed...presbytery did that
- God's hard at work in presbytery offering or confirming God's call
- Limits on your life vanish when you allow presbytery to help
- Attending presbytery and general assembly meetings
- Worship experiences
- Presbytery has been accepting and nurturing
- I (ruling elder) have attended presbytery since 1990 – discussion on ordination of gays gave me a new insight into face we are all sinners and all need grace – it is not our place to judge
- We do learn from each other
- Experiences at presbytery meetings have helped me learn to receive communion from someone who I was angry with (in a debate) has nurtured my faith – this is an experience of community
- You don't have to speak in presbytery to learn or grow
- They are there to help us get some funds and resources.
- Learns you to be patient
- Experiences in worships at presbytery

NURTURE questions

How has Shenandoah Presbytery helped you personally grow in your Christian faith?

- Enrichment and educational events (big event, catch the spark, etc)
- Pilgrimage experience (growth in faith)
- Gave opportunities for service: Ethiopian trip, forces us to acquire new skills, we gain new insights – sometimes changes our lives

NURTURE questions

How has Shenandoah Presbytery helped to nurture your congregation's life?

- Write up a report and share what you learn at the presbytery meeting. Keep them posted on changes. They'll enjoy it.
- Oxford is not happy with the "Gracious Separation" procedure adopted recently by Shenandoah Presbytery. They see nothing gracious in it. We never contemplate leaving the denomination, though.
- with its support of the pastor and in its attention to the congregation's need at the time of calling a new pastor. This is a key responsibility that the Presbytery fulfills.
- Of particular value has been the Baja mission, which has made a difference to those who have gone.
- We have been fortunate to have close ties with Presbytery. Even though we have had several bad experiences, such as our fire and the death of Mr. Fleming, and the "dubious" exit of others, Presbytery representatives have stepped in to be supporting of us. Sometimes I wonder if we would still have our doors open had it not been for the help of Presbytery.
- It has affirmed the transition of names- which is helping my congregations find an identity that brings them together but still allows them to have personnel identity as a church
- Has provided financial assistance and has provided what has worked and not worked at other churches
- Resource center: chocolate! Lisa is very supportive and helpful.
- E-mail communication is very helpful. Many agreed that the individual churches need to do a better job of passing the information we receive on to our churches.
- BIG Event (very worthwhile)
- "Catch the Spark" (hope this will impact our future)
- Our congregation has benefitted from the nurture provided our pastor through the Rehoboth group and programs to fund pastoral continuing education. Our education program benefits from curriculum resources such as dvds and literature. Most of the officer training and teacher support offerings, however, are too far away for our people to attend. Other congregations probably face the same problem, so we suggest that consideration be given to providing training and workshops at diverse locations. We have benefitted from the opportunities for our children and youth at Camp Paddy Run and would advocate more support for the camp. We join in and benefit from the activities of the Eastern Panhandle Mission community, which gives a small but welcome stipend toward the support of campus ministry at Shepherd University. We believe it would be in keeping with its proper goals if presbytery provided more direct support to the campus ministries sponsored by our congregations.
- Some members of MPC and the Session attend Presbytery training events and workshops and these have been helpful. i.e. The Big Event at Massanetta Springs.
- through exposure to workshops, providing materials, youth camps that strengthen faith, Baja trip that greatly affects youth, resource representative to provide information on new resources, different ways to look at issues.
- Outreach to our Church has been excellent the last few years, helping us with suggestions for Ministerial contracts and engaging the Community. We also appreciated the compliments on our efforts and contributions.
- During triennial visit and a vision study, representatives from Shenandoah Presbytery have attended session and parish council meetings
- The general presbyter got lost trying to visit us one Sunday

NURTURE questions

How has Shenandoah Presbytery helped to nurture your congregation's life?

- Not everyone in our congregation knows how presbytery is involved
- Shenandoah Presbytery has not provided financial help, but leaving our finances up to us is probably a good thing
- We see the Shenandoah Presbytery helping more by supporting projects and missions and not individual congregation needs
- Officer Training
- Sunday School Training
- Learned about widespread reach of PDA
- Learned about campus ministry at JMU
- Learned about mission and partnership with Ethiopia
- If you need to be more thoughtful about the future, presbytery is there to guide you
- I learn things I take back to my congregation and parish
- Presbytery helped our congregation move from being a chapel to a church
- 4 cents a meal program was started by presbytery – we have expanded it locally but it would not have started without presbytery
- Presbytery helped us purchase an adjoining lot to protect our church from a salvage yard next door
- I felt a part of the presbytery family from the first time I came
- Presbytery helps me recognize that it is not “my church”
- Resource center
- Inform and inspire session elders
- Volunteer opportunities available through presbytery to help those with gifts and talents thrive
- All starts at local church and the minister's introduction to presbytery and recognizing gifts God has given. Be on a committee and this is God calling you
- Networking resulted in retired ministers to do officer's training
- Mission communities and presbytery picnics
- Invited general presbyter (and wife) to preach and lead officer training
- If congregation is in conflict the presbytery comes in and is instrumental in healing/nurturing the wounded congregation – respect to both sides, not trying to force resolution and allow to vent. General presbyter acted as a lightening rod for people to vent
- Empathy extended at meetings to elders from conflicted congregations
- Opportunities for leadership on committees
- Webs coming to lead elder training
- Visioning
- Upgrade to dvd or newest technology
- Workshops and retreats have nurtured a few of the congregation's leaders. The Resource Center has provided materials for the pastor and a few leaders. Our children's Sunday School curriculum selection benefited from the Resource Center Coordinator's advice.
- Partner with other churches within mission community
- Help make adjustments to improve specific _____
- Mission studies between pastorates

NURTURE questions
How can Shenandoah Presbytery enhance the education and
leadership development of your congregation?

- Resource Comm. And help from the leaders – call them when you need help
- The Resource Center is of great value.
- If there is some way that leadership and education classes can come to us, we would probably have more interest. Our aging congregation tends to be home bodies and is not willing or able to travel very far or at night.

- I would love to see elder training classes- to handle things like Roberts rules- and basic history of church- so I can focus on this is how this particular church does things according to our handbook- Also Clerk Training would be fabulous- with a Calendar of when to expect certain things and when things are due—as a Pastor of 3 churches where two of my churches sessions meet quarterly- it is hard to keep them all straight- and I am still learning how this presbytery works- It could be an overnight retreat- and it should cover how to make motions at Presbytery and what happens when we amend the amendment!
- Offer workshops at the Fall Gathering
- Using the resources of the presbytery—Randy, Lisa, Doug, Kim and Heather. Create a list of people resources throughout the presbytery. Provide resources for programs for family night suppers.

- Offer presbytery resources here - PIE, officer's retreats
- Perhaps Presbytery could offer more opportunities for joint training, such as SS teacher training, youth leader training, officer training.
- It seems that the resource center is a centralized place for churches to go to get resources. What if Presbytery was seen as a resource that came around to the congregations in the form of training, workshops, etc.
- At Presbytery meetings, instead of so many announcements that persons could read in the packet, how about having inspirational speakers talk on current topics of interest to the church? Move the meetings from an information-sharing time to equipping-disciples time.
- Again, instead of having so many announcements, how about having a time for congregations to share how God is working powerfully in their congregation. There could be short presentations by church teams describing something going on that they are very excited about. This could spark ideas for others.
- Web seminars with good advance communications would be useful. Possibly add more Retreats or Youth Camps “geared” to Leadership. Advertise any resources for community programming ideas.
- Perhaps a coaching session or sessions for lay ministers
- Host a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Site—there are none in Virginia
- Clerk of session workshops/ training session
- Keep us more informed on what educational programs and leadership are available.

- New Pastors’ Orientation
- Informal Dialogue
- More collaborative gatherings
- More youth conferences/gatherings
- Offer classes how to facilitate small groups
- Promote what’s available
- More connection to the sessions

NURTURE questions
How can Shenandoah Presbytery enhance the education and
leadership development of your congregation?

- Training for clerks
- Display are at presbytery meetings for Sunday school, one for small groups, etc
- Helpful to me as interim pastor, a list formulated of resources (Names) especially if you are needed
- Continue the Big Event
- Spiritual renewal weekend needed (better than large big event)
- Saturday retreats needed with organization time, devotional time, what things happening now
- Take advantage of offerings to the community – promote opportunities
- Make use of our time together. Meetings should be used less for announcements and more for discussion of ideas
- They will do what they can to help you – offer training for teachers, etc
- Presbytery should offer group events for your – maybe trips, etc. model youth leading in worship in presbytery meetings
- I'd like to see presbytery have youth or college students go into churches to show how to run a good Bible school
- Presbytery has been there to give us guidance
- Resource center is essential for officer training. Update on videos in library.
- Habitat or SPYCE is to help our children.
- Retreats are very important to the youth.
- Elder training and development
- Events like the Big Event
- Some education on Presbyterianism
- Sharing of ideas among persons (elders, CREs, etc) who are doing the same thing and/or facing similar issues
- Help for churches that want to expand their ministry and be revitalized

NURTURE questions

What resources could Shenandoah Presbytery provide that would be useful to your congregation?

- Besides money?
- Perhaps have on hand samples of a wide variety of up-to-date curricula.
- Get a permanent General Presbyter who will be out in the field and in touch with all congregations.
- Continue more programs such as “Catch the Spark” and the Leadership Fair.
- Video presentations of lessons for adult Sunday school, a CD collection of all hymns in the new Presbyterian Hymnbook to accommodate the scarcity of church musicians. (At least have this as a backup possibility).

- I am not really sure at this point- until we have a need I don't know what to ask for
- Technical
- The Session sees one role of Presbytery to be “pastor to the pastors.” We are appreciative of the sabbatical leave policy, for example. Pastoral care and support of our pastors is an important role that Presbytery can play.
- Provide more communication for grants and other resources.
- Check in with us and let us know you are out there, let us know what Presbytery is doing for mission and outreach
- Help us learn what other churches are doing, share ideas
- Displays are available at presbytery meetings on what churches are doing, but if we don't attend the meeting, how can we find out what is out there?
- Make it easier to find resources and opportunities

- Connection and involvement leads to relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Work of Committee on Church Development – resources available, both financial and people – can ask for help!
- Commitment to the “Presbyterian way” and Shenandoah Presbytery
- Communication can always be improved – the average person in the pew doesn't know!
- “People resources” for youth ministry
- A deliberate effort by presbytery to affirm the importance of us and give support to small churches.
- Appreciate what churches are doing (their strengths) instead of dwelling on their weaknesses
- A manual for training elders
- Networking together to educate and support each other – people sharing ideas
- Celebration of what God is doing in our midst – discerning how God is working in each church
- Prayer for congregations
- Presbytery needs to understand that churches are strapped for money. Let churches have fund raising activities
- Enable people to meet and cooperate with each other – sharing ideas that work, etc – an unmoderated web page
- Revitalize the mission communities to provide clear/effective leadership for mission
- Use resources (mission, stewardship) to provide guidance and leadership to congregations
- Help revitalize congregations and their view of presbytery and it's activities
- Instead of having committee meetings at the presbytery building always, have meeting at a small church (that could never host a presbytery meeting). Have lay people participate in

NURTURE questions

What resources could Shenandoah Presbytery provide that would be useful to your congregation?

hosting/participating in the meeting. This would help congregations feel connected to presbytery

- Presbytery does a good job getting the word out about events by Doug's emails and about clean up buckets, etc
- Resource center very helpful. Need to take advantage of it
- Malcolm Brownlee wants to come anytime/anywhere for training
- Need to have a way to deal with people's pervasive anxiety
- Compared to other presbyteries, Shenandoah is kind, nurturing and sensitive
- Intentional monthly gathering important and needed to help pastors vent – promote “niche gatherings” for nurturing pastors – interim and installed

WORSHIP questions

What has been your best experience in presbytery meeting worship service?

- Appreciate variety of worship
- Our commissioner Clinton Anderson, and I have found lunchtime the most productive part of presbytery meetings. Socializing and getting acquainted is extremely important. This does not happen in the meeting
- Find it spiritually stimulating. Music is often exceptional. There is a sense of enthusiasm.
- The music at I believe Covenant Presbyterian that focused on our link to African Presbyterian.
- Singing hymns and breaking into harmony
- Singing is very inspirational
- music—preaching—being on the other side of worship—different cultural experience of worship--Ethiopian

- Enjoy all the services - especially the music (full volume with many good voices) and good sermons.
- Very moving: especially because the whole presbytery worships together. It's like going to another church to worship.
- (Negative comment) - Did not think worship was special.
- Our members who have attended Presbytery meetings over the years recall an earlier time when the worship service was briefer. Often now too little time is available to discuss the measures and means to help churches that face many problems in this era of declining congregations and shrinking budgets. It is fitting and appropriate for us to spend time in worship together, and some recall memorable moments when they learned new hymns or enjoyed some aspect of the opening worship. On the whole, however, our consensus favors a return to a briefer opening worship that would allow presbytery meetings more time to give proper attention to the agenda.
- One member recalled a communion service at Presbytery held at round tables. This was very meaningful.
- Another remembered music that included a hammer dulcimer.
- We remembered a Presbytery meeting at MPC when there was a large combined choir involving multiple churches. Those involved thought it was a wonderful way to express our unity and connectedness.
- In general, worship at Presbytery has not memorable. It seems to lack energy and imagination. Many of the Session members have worshipped at Montreat where worship is thought to be exceptional.
- the sermon at Woodstock, always the singing and music, a variety of instruments, good to hear different people preach, and experiencing new technology needed for communication.
- *The music has always been full of energy and purpose transferring its' energy and inspiration to the proceedings.*
- The style of worship is similar to what we're used to, same spiritual feelings
- Some have only been to one but really enjoyed the music
- Well-versed sermons, music that is uplifting, fellowship
- Worship is the best experience at Presbytery meetings except the lunch sometimes

- More people in worship – boisterous singing.
- Uplifting worship at the beginning of the meeting.
- Some wonder, “Why worship?”
- Worship fine – fairly standard
- Cindy Bolbach

WORSHIP questions

What has been your best experience in presbytery meeting worship service?

- Music
- Ethiopian component at Covenant
- Communion
- Energy in worship
- Best part of the meeting
- Mt Carmel and anniversary celebration
- Visitor from Ethiopia – seeing the “result” of what “little” we give
- We set aside differences in worship
- We are a people called to worship
- We center ourselves – reorient ourselves – worship raises you up
- Worship with the voices all in the sanctuary has been enhancing
- The music is refreshing – having brass – I usually go to music director and said we want to do this
- Covenant church with streamers
- Message at Massanutten was inspiring
- Willing to listen to the young adults
- Singing and fellowship
- Meet people on outside of own church
- Getting to see different sanctuaries and different worship spaces is a plus – but travelling 3 hours is not good
- Communion is always a best
- Singing – truly joyful noise – a spiritual experience
- Early 1990s church children’s choir did a musical for a presbytery meeting and thought that was a great experience of learning the Word

WORSHIP question

Has your experience been spiritual, and how?

- Which part is important, business or spiritual?
- Candidates reaching – fresh, new – oh yeah!
- Recitation of deceased servants – deeply spiritual
- Some days I feel more fed than others
- The variety is nice with each preacher giving different styles
- For teaching elders this is an opportunity to worship
- After going to David Witt's church with the responses in liturgy has been a good thing in their church. They went away with Doxology and Gloria Patri for every Sunday
- Presbytery wide Sunday – everyone at churches do worship alike on the Sunday. Presbytery would give out outlines of the service

WORSHIP questions

Has your experience centered around the style of worship?

- Like worship at home church!
- I will admit that I enjoy traditional and some praise- but I do not Taize- it drives me nuts
- Style varies – inclusive worship makes me feel included
- Most have been fairly “traditional”
- Episcopal/Honduras – freeing - perhaps those who have been on mission trips lead worship and share how they worship

WORSHIP questions

What do you value most in presbytery worship?

- Communion/singing/variety of things
- The main benefit seen from the Presbytery worship services is an exposure to other styles of services, different hymns, and a variety of liturgies. In part, the worship services are viewed as completely unconnected to the business sessions where contentious discussion clashes with the earlier spirit of worship and brotherly love.
- It helps to center us and set the right tone for the rest of the meeting.
- Hosting and being in the choir, lot of voices singing, creates an awareness that we are doing God's work even when issues are messy, have especially found worship centered around issues to be inspiring and helped in decision making
- Without worship service the meeting itself would not mean a lot, appreciate a variety of styles of worship, second half of previous answer as well.
- Music and corporate experience of worship.
- Elements of worship at meetings add to our own worship services, guest musicians, outside speakers, motivational speakers, all music services, lay readers and participants from different churches.
- Most always get something we can utilize in our own worship services.

- The chance to sit and listen to someone else's interpretation of text- especially if they are using the text from the Sunday either before or after the meeting. It helps me see the text in way I did not discover and encourages my brain and heart to think more
- Corporate and choral music, preaching, being on the other side of worship, experiencing new and different worship experiences.

- Music
- Participating in communion together and preaching
- Worship defines who we are as a people of God. How could all of a Presbytery meeting be an act of worship? Could worship completely envelop the business meeting? How can the entire meeting be worshipful work?
- It brings a sense of Community before the "business" meeting.
- Music
- Other people besides the minister participate—read scripture, prayers, etc.
- Sociability, togetherness, common goals—during worship, not always during meetings

- Pastors appreciate worshiping and not leading.
- Being part of community worship
- Joy-energy
- Deal with difficult issues yet still worship together
- Different kinds of worship
- Authentic expression of local church
- More joint worship services
- Let me have a good experience of worship
- When presbytery is in your area have people from your area come just to worship
- I would appreciate contemporary choruses, videos, ways to use technology to enhance worship
- At church using PowerPoint; not every week – but most people appreciated the technology

WORSHIP questions

What do you value most in presbytery worship?

- What does this question mean?? Contemporary? Traditional?
- Music
- No hierarchy – pastors and ruling elders sharing together in worship
- When the word comes alive
- Foundation of worship at the end of the day, we may have differences but we're still a community who worships together
- Singing
- When so many are gathered to worship, makes for an inspiring service
- Likes a participating aspect whenever included in presbytery worship
- Seeing other types or methods of worship is a safe way to experience new ways of worshipping
- Can transfer to individual church but sometimes hit with a desire not to change old ways
- Like Presbyterian liturgy and appreciate the litany
- Communion – experiencing it as a presbytery – connects us in a deeper way
- Presbytery worship introduces new ideas that can be taken home
- Young people included in presbytery worship has inspired me the most
- Dance/drama
- Singing is awesome and learning new songs
- Experience of female leadership in worship at presbytery changes us...to imagine women in ministry. Perhaps the first time many men and women experienced female worship leadership has been at presbytery...has been a good thing for male pastors too – to hear a female voice from the pulpit
- The variety of preachers – hearing/seeing through another set of lenses
- Different ways of worship, music, communion
- Going different places
- Different music

WORSHIP questions

What unique opportunities could presbytery meeting worship offer?

- Opportunity for mission
- The Oxford Session does have one suggestion with regard to Presbytery's celebration of the Lord's Supper. They think our way is much more conducive to worship and inspiration. If the Presbytery Worship Committee is interested, I will be happy to describe Oxford's handling of the sacrament.....or better still, I will gladly conduct the entire sacrament for Presbytery at any time. No special equipment is required.
- It is an opportunity for people from small churches to experience large-group corporate worship.
- The chance for something new or different from what we normally see in our own churches.
- ? I think we underuse the gifts of pastors and ruling elders concerning music- biblical storytelling- and visual arts. One of the things I love about PAM Worship and Music conferences is the expression of scripture through multiple senses. I miss visual art and its interpretation. I miss hearing the water being poured at the font- and I miss the breaking of bread
- Invite nationally known preachers to come.
- If worship is one of the mission pillars of Presbytery, then perhaps there could be more intentional planning and preparation. What if Presbytery had a standing worship committee that planned all of the services for an entire year?
- By making worship one of the three pillars of Presbytery, does Presbytery want to model robust worship for those who gather? If so, a consistent worship committee planning for a year could add intentionality, creativity and depth to the services.
- Does Presbytery see itself as a resource to help local congregations enhance their own worship experiences? If so, worship services at Presbytery could involve a variety of styles, liturgy, music and preaching to help congregations experience something beyond their own styles.
- Worship at its best has intentionally prepared music and preaching.
- ? If the Worship was recorded or live-streamed, it would perhaps bring inspiration to individual Churches.
- A chance for participation for non-ministers or multiple ministers to lead worship, read scripture, etc.
- Share differing ideas or opinions
- Worship at a new place other than sanctuary, outside, in a school, in a concert hall, etc.
- Connectional nature.
- more different cultural styles, small round table gatherings for serving communion, communion at every presbytery meeting, experience of connectedness, uplifted by the experiences, ideas for service in the local church.
- Ethiopia lead service in style that they worship
- SPYCE lead worship
- What does host church do that's special/unique?
- Not so liturgy driven – perhaps more reflective – contemporary – out of the box
- How can you design a whole worship service that really includes everyone, including small children? Can we offer an example at presbytery? Or discussion of?
- Have CRE preach more often
- Seasonal worship

WORSHIP questions

How does Shenandoah Presbytery worship enhance your congregation's worship life?

- Opportunity for mission
- Broadens our exposure. Gives pastors a chance to listen to someone else and pick up new ideas.
- It doesn't really—we have music that makes my heart leap. What presbytery offers is many people singing which is something I don't get on Sunday's- but it does affirm to my elders that there is a larger body that sings and worship together
- Worship seems to bring us to be more attentive and listen

- "I can't see how they do."
- In general, the Session does not regard Presbytery as the “go to” place to learn more about or experience meaningful worship. But it could be!
- One specific instance was the use of bagpipes in the service. Piedmont had Fred Holbrook be a part of our service. It created a historical atmosphere.
- Sometimes provides examples of worship styles or music to share with home congregation
- We are not aware of what Presbytery does for our worship life

- Presbytery worship doesn't impact congregation's worship. Most elders are not exposed to presbytery worship. Wonder what people anticipate and expect in our worship at presbytery?
- Prompts us to use more lay leadership in our churches, more variety, richer worship for our congregation at home
- Cant think of any
- Through prayer – intercessory
- It doesn't
- It depends on the person
- Elders come back with ideas
- Prayer
- Ideas emerge
- Learn things not to do