

Listening Group Notes
November 14, 2014

Empowering Racial Ethnic Ministries – Joanna Kim, Gloria Beard

Session 1 – 10 attendees

- Feels her church is lacking in this area. Here to gather ideas and invited all to share. Is there a way for presbytery to provide info on other churches seeking a partner? – Ginger Williams, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- If we struggle through cultural differences maybe we will survive. He wonders if Presbytery has any plans for the Hispanics. – Daniele Alatorre, Bethany, Dallas
- Patience – time difference, other differences – Anabel Hernandez, Bethany, Dallas
- Power is money. With money, you have self-determination. Walls between different races & financial groups. Need a half million a year to empower racial ethnic ministries. – Jack Robertson, Bethany, Dallas
- Lack of attention and focus given to ethnic racial ministries. Need to get together and empower each other. – Horacio Quiroz Gutierrez, chaplain, Parkland Hospital, Dallas
- His church is placed in predominantly white area with strong attachment to area by residents. No ethnic minorities there. They do homeless ministry one day a week and outreach in San Antonio and to small churches. – David Logan, St. Stephen, FW
- More inclusiveness needed. Mostly Anglos at this meeting. Not many Hispanics at the meetings. – Anabel Hernandez, Bethany, Dallas
- We are doing things in silos. Need to create a space, a forum to get information out about what we're doing. Used to celebrate all together as churches. Celebrate with food about everything going on in the presbytery. His hope is that somehow presbytery will once again make a decision that this is important. Budget for small church pastors to do continuing education events (especially in south Dallas and south Fort Worth) they need help and organization to come together and help that grow. He (Clay) is willing to help with that. – Clay Allard, Oak Cliff, Dallas
- Wondering if it is spirit-led. Used to meet and have lunch once a month. Presbytery used to provide \$1,000 a year for lunch. Want to re-start immigrant pastor's fellowship. – Julius Edah, United African, Dallas
- Used to be a multi-ethnic meeting. Needs to be led by someone who is not an Anglo. Word "race" is important. Should be used more. COR leaves out 4 of 7 people groups. Wants races to be named specifically, not as "etc." – Jack Robertson, Bethany, Dallas
- "Saturday School" at their church (mostly Hispanic ministry.) Suggest churches share what they are doing with one another. Combine knowledge. – Jeanne Werner, First, Dallas
- Bethany loses many of their people when they finish university. Have no plans for them, nothing to offer. We want to see our people (young adults) come back to our church, the church that raised them.– Daniele Alatorre, Bethany

- Many go to First, Dallas. – Horacio Quiroz Gutierrez, chaplain, Parkland, Dallas
- Our young people come back for weddings & baptisms only. They forget where we came from – generational issue. – Jack Robertson, Bethany, Dallas
- “You need to go to Presbytery because that’s where decisions are made that impact your life.” We need to carry that message back to the young people. – Jeanne Werner, First, Dallas

Clay, Jeanne and Jack ended the session by exchanging business cards so they could follow up with each other.

Session 2 – 13 attendees (others that attended: Paul Sherwood – First, Athens and Ben Dorr)

- Good with breakfasts, feeding community. The hang-up is worship. If Presbytery could model services theologically and liturgically. We incorporate African and Thai groups once a month. – Brent Barry, NorthPark, Dallas
- The term racial-ethnic is from the 1960’s. Need to add socio-economic as well as language, food, emotions, expression of self. Applaud presbytery for getting information out in booklet in this presbytery meeting booklet. What does empower mean? What do we mean by these words, when reporting what’s going on in these ministries. Some churches go on for decades without becoming an established church. – Matt Calvert, Texas Health, Dallas
- Appreciated the videos. How do we find out if there’s a need in supporting ethnic ministries in our neighborhoods? How can Presbytery help us with that? – Paul Sherwood, First, Athens
- Question – We had Southeast Asian fellowship here and enjoyed them. They just disappeared. – Anne McCullough, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Very intimidating to me to have a Latino man walk into our church and say, “You have to come to where we are. It is too intimidating to go to your Presbyterian church.” – Brent Barry, NorthPark, Dallas
- Communicate video situations. Keep doing it. Keep highlighting to each other. “This is important.” Keep raising questions. – Jimmy Chapman, First, Henderson
- Unless you’re a person of color, you don’t know how intimidating it is to be among white/Anglos predominantly. – Joanna Kim, grace Presbytery
- We need communication from presbytery “What is working.” Videos were good but only one person from our church saw those, ME!” Need info on website. – Gwen Berner, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Attend to the Spirit. Discern our way forward. Check things out theologically. Your situation (Canyon Creek) needs to be de-briefed. We Presbyterians are grieving the loss of our ability to manage everything. Videos are testimonies. A lot more I want to know. Don’t know that Hispanics are looking for someone to come in and “do it for us.” – David Batchelder, West Plano, Plano
- It is like a blanket with 2 wrinkles. One pulls up, the other goes down and vice versa. Where does presbytery see its obligation? 1) Find a way – where do we see need coming from community? 2) Where does presbytery see need to push into community? – Fred Baur, Bentwood Trail, Dallas

- I heard a great idea: Free breakfast on Saturday as an outreach to get to know each other. – Gwen Berner, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Videos regarding Connecting groups to congregations were good. As presbytery, how do we communicate to leaders – how to embrace community members? Henderson does neighborhood party every fall. How do we connect with them if they came to our church with language barriers? How does presbytery help? It’s our (the church’s) responsibility to find ways to do this. – Jimmy Chapman, First, Henderson
- I spoke to someone who engendered a high level of spiritual involvement that said, “Vision is not goals and objectives. It is self-awareness. Who I am. What I want. Then to see what’s around me. Who hurts – what is the need?” – Mike Thompson, Grace Presbytery
- Churches are looking for answers from presbytery. See it as “a clearinghouse for problems. We send our money there and don’t see anything come back.” Presbytery has to find ways to give churches the answers. – Fred Baur, Bentwood Trails, Dallas
- New Beginnings is partly a response to this question. My hunch is the young pastor Mike spoke of has not been mal-formed. – David Batchelder, West Plano, Plano
- Legal status of many illegal residents changes yesterday. How does presbytery help its body welcome, engage with that. How does advocacy work with presbytery as a whole? How to be more responsible with current issues. Silent? Engage – as outlined in Matthew 25 – how? – David Batchelder, West Plano, Plano
- Historically those issues raised through overtures brought to floor of presbytery. Don’t see that much anymore. – Mike Thompson, Grace Presbytery
- Should ask, why? – David Batchelder, West Plano, Plano
- As a 30 year member of racial-ethnic church. All groups used to meet together. Three groups combined into single group in order to have moderator on Council. Didn’t empower people – gave money and hoped they would be empowered. Gave NCD’s 3 years to get up and running. Didn’t do that with racial ethnic group. Need to have a plan – not indefinite – maybe 3 years. One example of a wish for empowerment – St. Luke grew by 200 members with one pastor (Fell). Need a clear vision. – Calvin Bluiett, Oak Cliff, Dallas

The group came up with a summary statement, Sharing Love, Listening, Transforming the gospel, “trying not to be so white”. Willing to try things.

Session 3 – 9 attendees

- NEXT church is doing a great job, we could learn from them. – Gordon Blackman, Alpine, Longview
- 2nd and 3rd generation immigrant churches have a real challenge with language differences. Cultural challenges/differences are big issue. – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas
- Question for Joe – Have you been successful? Are African American people joining your church? – Barbara Kiser, West Plano, Plano
- Answer – No, very few. Haven’t figured out how to integrate their lives into life of the church. – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas

- Question for Andy – Is it a language problem? – Duke Burgess, DeSoto, DeSoto
- Answer – Primarily, it is “What is worship supposed to be? (Joe – “Amen!”) that makes the members say, “What is that?” – Andy Wong, Gethsemane, Fort Worth
- We work at a dental clinic and on Wednesday do a meal. Hispanic moms and children and homeless come together. They haven’t bonded and don’t trust each other. We have short worship services. Rich conversations come from that. Works better than trying to create a multi-racial worship service, but it doesn’t bridge into our main church. – Suzy Rhodes, First, FW
- I was real excited about what you did in creating that synergy between two churches (Brazilian and The Colony). Like to see more of that-racial or not. Like to see more of church as a whole creating those synergies. – Gordon Blackman, Alpine, Longview
- I did an internship at Trinity, Oak Cliff. Church was Anglo. “How can the church be a good neighbor to you all? How about ESL classes?” They answered yes. Put a sign in laundry room. The first year there was one class, the second year there were 7 classes. Didn’t come to the church. Twelve years later I met two women from class who were church members. – Phyllis Danhoff Speck, At-large
- Challenge: Ensure our leadership model engages racial ethnic groups. Offer education like Lutheran program LEAD. Seminary education free, no strings attached. Certification programs that don’t require baccalaureate degrees – a program at Austin. The reality is that 20th Century Christianity is defined by racial diversity. – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas
- If worship is focal point of the church, it is very hard to have diversity work well. Cultural assumptions and tics make it hard. Don’t know – should we do less of worship configuring and more of something else? – Andy Wong, Gethsemane, FW
- When in Indian Health Services, the new executive said, “No more paternalism. Tell the tribes, “We have resources. You tell us what you want and we will do it.” Then we need to listen. Wait for an answer. They don’t believe you at first.” – Jack Robertson, Bethany, Dallas
- We do Christmas benevolence. 75% of families we work with at Christmas are Hispanic. We get a large grant for this. Schools are very appreciative. I’m looking for outreach ideas. Haven’t brought any families into the church yet. – Julie ?, First, Athens
- How about – This Christmas ministry costs roughly \$20,000. Ask, “If we used \$20,000 for ministry to you, what would you need? Is this the best way for us to spend these resources?” – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas
- It is critical to engage people in the process. Agreement all around. – Joanna Kim, Grace Presbytery
- Being on the receiving end is a strange dynamic, and can become unbalanced. – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas
- We can ask the questions that answer, “What do people want?” Recommend ***Toxic Charity*** book discussions. – Suzy Rhodes, First, FW
- Difference between “ministering with” vs. “ministering to.” My experience as an adult convert – I have some power (with God’s help and providence) I have some power over my own

circumstances. Rather than presbytery has helped me – Presbytery has taught me how to help my neighborhood. – Andy Wong, Gethsemane, FW

Group Statement – Empowering is – building relationships, helping each other, trusting each other, being a servant, discovering new things, necessary, do or die, a good idea, raising leaders, letting people know you're real. Joanna, Andy and Joe agree that this topic is not big on presbytery member's radar.

Identify and Engage Social Issues – Melinda Veatch, Sara Jo Mueller

Session 1 – 17 attendees

- Where we take our place alongside of people on the margins. Example – Ferguson, are we ready to give leadership? Immigration – people here can quickly become pawns – are ready to help? Gospel this Sunday, Jesus doesn't ask for a statement of faith, - action. – David Batchelder, West Plano, Plano
- Big Tent film documentary "Trigger", not just about guns, another in FL, no one thinks it could happen here, but it can! Gun safety, respectfully, background checks. 86% NRA support checks, copy in resource center. PDA now on ground when there is a shooting. – Candice Klein, First, Henderson
- 2 things – 1) If you don't like a law, disobey it, many believe... 2) getting homeless to get to a place they can take care of themselves. – Jim Barber, First, FW
- Major demographic change – be careful in "there" – so much crime/poverty and crime now in suburbs continue to change. Presbytery needs to find ways to cope, feed information to churches to help them relate. – Fred Baur, Bentwood Trail, Dallas
- Someone got dropped off with a suitcase at the church, didn't know what to do, got him bus ticket home. Need help to know what to do. – Cindy Miller, Westminster, Corsicana
- How do you help kids who are refugees, poor, on the margins? How do we care about ALL of the kids? – Jimmy Chapman, First, Henderson
- Most leverage to make most positive change = education. Real educational opportunities for ALL. Help them get into good school – charter. Good fit-Presbytery. – Neill Morgan, At large, Sherman
- ESL classes for parents. – Anne McCulley, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Income in equality. Parents not involved with kids, working 3 jobs. These people are invisible – need to stand with them. – Cheryl Helmich, West Plano, Plano
- Church has to be the conscience. How to deal – retrain, jobs changing. Lost our sense of a nation, not behaving like it. Poverty creates chaos. – Calvin Bluiett, Oak Cliff, Dallas
- So many issues, ministries involved in. Presbytery could help congregations get connected to communities in need. Specific pathway – education, food access, something? – Leah Wyckoff, Grace Presbytery
- Wide Political variances. Who is responsible to help? Conservatives don't want government to help, but don't help themselves. How to reconcile? – Cindy Miller, Westminster, Corsicana

- Penal system, expedient to be “tough on crime” – many don’t have voice; church can speak up for redemption. Bad to warehouse people who could be supporting their families. Don’t have a voice. Profit motive – privatization of prisons. – Gordon Blackman, Alpine, Longview
- Avenue how balance – in the weeds, immediate needs and global issues. – Adelle, St. Stephens, FW
- Highlight organizations – Texas Impact. Presbytery sends delegates to groups who can make a difference. – Matt Calvert, Chaplain, Dallas
- Structure historically to deal, some to so able to help, resources are needed, churches getting smaller. People disenfranchised, others wanting them that way. We need to empower them. – Calvin Bluiett, Oak Cliff, Dallas
- Read – Brag on education system, 85% graduate. Brag on police. – Jim Barber, First, FW

Session 2 – 28 attendees

- Homelessness, feeding the hungry. – Darhyl Ramsey, St. Andrew, Denton
- Very divided socially, way less ways out, we have power to do something. – Clay Allard, Oak Cliff, Dallas
- Public education. How to take our many resources and support reform of public education. – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas
- Human trafficking. – Perryn Rice, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Drugs biggest problem, many don’t recognize that. – Tom Laney, First, Henderson
- Anglo churches help poor Hispanic churches. – Tory, Bethany, Dallas
- Fail to engage to our own peril, including marriage equality and immigration. Good news to everyone – if we don’t, we will be turning out the lights. – Catherine Cuellar, First, Dallas
- Healthcare – have 3 or 4 tier system, need to have healthcare for all. Congregations getting involved locally could do amazing things. – John Englehard, Chaplain, Dallas
- Training – workup, now. – Ralph Gordon, First, Winnsboro
- AIDs epidemic. – Perryn Rice, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Social Media in general. – Sharon Neeley, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Hunger. – Meg Garver-Hamilton, Eastminster, Dallas
- Homelessness. – Christine Layer, Eastminster, Dallas
- Public education – parents and schools communication – Martha, First, FW
- Age, bring in younger people. – Judith Austin, First, Athens
- Marriage equality – need to study issues. Medicaid – how little choice to get help. Son has big fight to get appropriate help. – Marilee Scruggs, First, Arlington

- Need to figure out how to help – money helps most of these. – David Logan, St. Stephen, FW
- Widening gap, haves and not haves. Justice system – Marley B., Trinity, McKinney
- Poverty – series at first Dallas on race and Poverty. – Barbara Kiser, West Plano, Plano
- Growth of income inequality – people once in middle class who now need all kinds of assistance, don't have access to help, don't know about it. – Tom Gibbons, St. Barnabas, Richardson
- School across street, children need food assistance – got rebuffed when tried to help. Diverse student population. – Susan Cuellar, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Immigration. – Samantha McKensie, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Ditto, starts with living wage for outside and inside church – need to pay living wage. – Diane Baldwin, Woodhaven, Irving
- Populating these issues, 48% children to single parent, growing up without a sense of love and commitment, possibility. – Jim Witherow, Faith, Aledo
- Grapevine is close to a wealthy area, yet kids come to schools without running water, can't learn, too hungry. – Amy Ward, First, Grapevine
- Conditions of children all over the world, money but also boots on the ground. – Ann Davey, First, Waco
- Silence on domestic violence. – Ben Dorr, Northridge, Dallas

Session 3 – 13 attendees

- Immigration so important, so timely, messed around, but no progress made. – Kay McClellan, Faith, United
- Gun violence, film “Trigger”, doesn't take a position, helps. – Sherry Kenney, Presbyterian Foundation
- Hunger is essential problem to help with. Four different food ministries started at NPPC. – Brent Barry, NorthPark, Dallas
- Environment. – Kathy Porter, First, Henderson
- Presbytery not take an issues, but to support what congregations are doing, support teaching elders in troubled places, help practice of becoming a victim, recognize everyone's value, protect majority and minority. – Vicki Griffin, First, Henderson
- Cultivating civil discourse, lost ability to disagree and yet be together. Peacemakers. – Beth Mairs, Trinity, Flower Mound
- Define line between church and state – hard to live in TX with so many ready to impose beliefs on others, need to speak up about this. – Jeanne Warner, First, Dallas
- Losing civility, enflames issues. – Richard Martin, St. Barnabas, Richardson
- Need more empathy. – Gwen Berner, Canyon Creek, Richardson

- What is marriage, can we keep Biblical teachings and honor gays. – David Schneider, HR
- People think has to be winner and loser. Need to be comfortable with complexities. – Vicki Griffin, First, Henderson
- Homelessness, more than finding them, and giving them a shower. – Julius Edah, United African, Dallas
- Lack of health resources, only available in large areas, not in smaller areas. – Lisa Wraith, First, Richardson
- Lack of compromising, speaks on behalf of those who cannot help themselves. Presbyterians very active in social services. Proud. – Horacio Gutierrez, Chaplain, Dallas
- Need to take a role in economic development. Morale Issue. Huge need because things are so in balance. Hard to open a business. – Vicki Griffin, First, Henderson
- Big business can hire and not pay and not give rest breaks. – Kay McClellan, Faith, United
- Not pay social security to maids/Be an advocate. – Jeanne Warner
- Do we have something in Presbytery to help? – Richard, St. Barnabas, Richardson
- Need to do mission together, more helpful, Presbytery – take morning to go to agencies to help. – Brent Barry, NorthPark, Dallas
- Presbytery does one project together. – Lisa Wright, Chaplain, Plano
- We did that in Yellowstone Presbytery...morning – huge, still did it, Presbytery did more by consent. – David Schafer
- What are members of Presbytery willing to do? – Melinda Veatch
- Vote by paper ballot. – Vicki Griffin, First, Henderson
- Already doing 2 days. – Jeanne Werner, First, Dallas
- Churches should get involved with organizations that are already effective such as DAI – Tarrant Co Area, Etc. – Presbytery could give them voice and maybe grants. – Sara Jo Mueller, West Plano, Plano
- If church is involved with an agency, it should get a table at least once a year. – Vicki Griffin, First Henderson

Hands-on Mission Opportunities – David Schaefers, Lynn Garis

Session 1 – 12 attendees

- System of having larger churches announce mission trips so smaller churches may add-on/tag-along. – John Hare, First, Gainesville
- Faith in Action Sunday – no worship on that Sunday and instead everyone is divided up to work on a mission that day. “Don’t GO to church...BE the church”. – John Hare, First, Gainesville

- Multi church/Multi-generational mission trips, not just youth opportunities. – Beth Mairs, Trinity, Flower Mound
- Has had to go outside of Presbytery for opportunities to do foreign mission trips. – John Shroodberger, Hackberry Creek, Irving
- Idea sharing even if not able to join in. Example – sponsoring student from Mexico to PPAS this year. – Barbara, West Plano, Plano
- Presbypalooza – but a Mission Fair Presbytery-wide so other Mission committees can come together and share ideas. – Suzy, First, FW
- East Dallas Cluster of Churches has gathered for years to trip together. – Jane Els, First Winnsboro
- Some form of idea sharing in order for congregations to find their “flagship” mission. – Rob Rippe, St. Philip, Hurst
- Having a “flagship” mission has been very successful in Hackberry Creek in order to focus their mission (Family Promise). – Tim Greaves, Hackberry Creek, Irving
- Good communication re: what is happening in other churches to spark ideas and excitement. – Gwen, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Maybe even list opportunities regionally, nationally and internationally on a web listing on the website. – Kendal Land, First, Longview
- Geography is a problem in Grace. Many churches are feeding/offering free hot breakfasts on Saturdays. – Jane Els, First, Winnsboro
- Having not just Presbytery do Mission at camp but have camp do mission for Grace. (Example, have Gilmont use Ferncliff’s model of this) Maybe even a presbytery-wide mission opportunity (making “kits”) sending them with the kids to camp and Gilmont collects, stores and sends them on as needed. Having Gilmont be a part of our Grace Presbytery mission. Mission Fair!! Yes!!! Annually, at a Presbytery meeting as at break out like today? – Kenny Rigoulot, United, Cleburne
- We do a disservice to PDA because we don’t talk much about it when there is not a disaster of some sort. Maybe a PDA speaker at Presbytery and/or include them in the Mission Fair. – Barbara, West Plano, Plano
- Communication from Presbytery needs to be better. – Jack Moore, First, Longview
- Make sure all leaders are well versed in what Presbytery can/does offer. – Rob Rippe, St. Philip, Hurst
- Mission Initiative Grants – letting folks know they are available; YAV – encouraging young adults to take advantage of opportunity...Connect local churches to these programs and others that are available regionally, nationally and internationally. – Kenny Rigoulot, United, Cleburne
- There is an international trip to Haiti coming up and they had an enlightening speaker which switched their thinking of what “mission” really is. – Suzy, First, FW
- Get folks excited with success stories like what we heard today. – Rob Rippe, St. Philip, Hurst

- Know when missionaries are in the states with enough time to book them to speak...not just a week prior. – John Hare, First, Gainesville

Session 2 – 7 attendees

- First Whitesboro has an open community breakfast every Saturday A.M.; it is a sit-down meal where you are our guest. We have 150 every Saturday! People are hungering for a gathering spot that has a sense of community. We also have a tutoring program for a local school. – Clay Brantley, First, Whitesboro
- Mission is often one of the best opportunities for community involvement, not just membership. Do annual mission trip. Want more information on what else is out there. – Steve Jebbia, Bentwood Trail, Dallas
- Collaboration of small churches with larger churches. Use Presbytery as a clearing house. – Judy Ziehm, Westminster, Dallas
- “Angels of Grace” is a former Grace Presbytery program that paired churches together. (Blair and John Anderson were instigators of the program) – Marilyn Weddel, Chaplain
- Stewpot (she gave an overview of all the services they provide there.) This generates a lot of community involvement. – Jeanne Werner, First, Dallas
- How can First Dallas share what they have learned over the years with other “downtown” congregations (Whitesboro, Sherman...) to use on a smaller scale? – Andy Odom, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Remember, you don’t have to be a “member” to participate. – Jeanne Werner, First, Dallas
- Could Presbytery support with help writing grants? – Marilyn Weddel, Chaplain
- Piggy back on other local congregation’s activity. Have Presbytery be a clearing house for those opportunities. – Clay Brantley, First, Whitesboro
- Small groups for sharing opportunities more often at Presbytery meetings i.e. “interest groups” – Jeanne Werner, First, Dallas
- Google calendar, presbytery-wide, that churches can add mission opportunities to and that can be looked at by others to get dates/areas of things going on where they could call themselves to get information. – Alissa King, St. Philip, Hurst
- Have presbytery “Focus” mission of Presbytery for an emphasis (annually?) and not spread all over, then push this emphasis, so more substance can be distributed about it for a period of time. Maybe as a Presbytery there could be one regional and one national push? Maybe even use the GAMC suggestions (hunger, education?) – Clay Brantley, First Whitesboro
- Maybe not even time related, but have it be goal related. – Andy Odom, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- “Mission is the life of the church”. It is not – me helping you...it is relationship building and opportunities to serve. – Clay Brantley, First, Whitesboro

Session 3 – 8 attendees

- New Beginnings is helping their church to determine what a major “focus” is going to be in their mission. – Susan Rousfelt, Grace, Arlington
- Need a connection with other churches. – Paul Sherwood, First, Athens
- Need something online (Facebook, website, etc.) where you can search by mission type, similar to “What is your future story”. – Lynn McIntire, First, Whitesboro and Susan Rousefelt, Grace, Arlington
- The Rousefelts from Grace, Arlington gave a brief description of what New Beginnings is for those that were wondering. (They are REALLY fired up and excited about it!)
- Saturday morning community breakfast. – Lynn McIntire, First, Whitesboro
- Mission Initiative – what a great program! Is a good “jump start” for churches that are exploring options for mission. – Charles Teykl, St. Philip, Hurst and Lee Jones, Northridge, Dallas
- Mission is often more of a time than a money offering. – Ginger Williams, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Foreign opportunities through the presbytery, not just social justice like the two new ones offered but maybe more hands-on opportunities, not just for youth. – Paul Sherwood, First, Athens
- Maybe not even foreign, but national opportunities. A balance between local/national/international opportunities for Presbytery-wide. – Lee Jones, Northridge, Dallas
- International opportunities are often less hands-on...national are more hands-on. – Lynn McIntire, First, Whitesboro
- Partnership/sharing opportunities. – Ginger Williams, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Has had trouble in the past locating and hooking up with missionaries and their needs. – Daryl Raines, Denton
- Thinks (especially in this area) we need to focus more on the regional needs. – Lee Jones, Northridge, Dallas
- Partnering with local schools and local entities such as Mid-Cities Care Corps are good community builders. – Charles Teykl, St. Philip, Hurst
- Suggest local chapter of United Way for a place to get suggestions. Likes a variety of opportunities because not everyone can “buy in” to a single focus. – Daryl Raines, Denton
- Gather community leaders and find out what needs are in that area and ways each group can contribute towards fixing brokenness. – Ginger Williams, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Sharing ideas with community groups and gaining help and partnerships works well. (Ex. A local rotary bought a van for a local facility that the church was working with. Or the company that did the church’s pictorial directory gave \$5 off if you brought in 3 cans of food for the food pantry.) – Daryl Raines, Denton
- “Service Sunday” instead of a “Sunday Service” – no service that day, but mission opportunities instead. – Ginger Williams, Lake Highlands, Dallas

- Remember to “partner” and not “take-over” when doing mission – Lynn McIntire, First, Whitesboro

Youth – Gary Holloman, Vicki Roberts

Session 1 – 9 attendees

- Engage churches currently not involved in youth activities. Form partnerships between churches (small with large). – Julie Riley, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Visit PVNorth other in town – Not enough youths to have a meaningful participation. Combine youth ministries to encourage more youth to take part. Connections relay information through youth elder. Presbytery-wide mission project. Host Sunday School classes – rotate. – Tony Gonzalez, St. Barnabas, Richardson
- Use Facebook page to advertise upcoming events. Competition between churches by parents. – Kelly Staples, NorthPark, Dallas
- Rotate churches to combine to find groups to fill cabins. In-town activities to supplement. Develop partnerships. Designate someone in church to be in charge of disseminating information to youth. – Samantha McKinney, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Central Communication source to combine group’s participation. Youth leader networking. Activities for younger youths (6th graders). – Linda Hunihan, Legacy, Frisco
- Visit churches by youth from other churches to explain programs. – Alice Harris, First, Terrell
- Combine churches to attend Montreat as a group. Outreach to other churches. Cluster groups. Multi-cultural events/participation. Meet with a purpose – quality not quantity. Intentional sponsored events. – Jodi Haun, First, Grapevine
- Need to connect with other churches. – Beverly Carson, First, Allen
- Small area churches need way to communicate to join together/broadcast. – Ralph, First, Winnsboro

Session 2 – 5 attendees

- Use youth as teachers of the children’s classes and leaders of children’s activities. – Hugh Whitledge, Frisco, Legacy
- First Friday event for entire community not just church members with youth leading worship service and put in charge to make decisions. Involve youth in Presbytery meetings. – Laura Houston, First, Richardson
- Combine activities for multiple churches but try to maintain each church’s identity. Children as liturgists...Youth elders. – Ben Miller, Trinity, Denton
- Contemporary worship to appeal to youth. Milestone program to teach children areas of worship – let them lead (usher, lead choir, prayers) – Elizabeth, Bentwood Trail, Dallas

Session 3 – 7 attendees

- Would like Presbytery to help churches with college ministry at junior colleges. Voluntary youth leaders go to smaller churches and lead groups. Train volunteers to lead youth ministry. Find local mission projects and involve youth. – John Hare, First, Gainesville
- Find ways to have youths connect with other churches and youth in churches. – Amy Rourk, First, Grapevine
- Need to find ways to involve youth in mission projects. Spirituality and sexuality classes with shared participation – Sharon Neely, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Share ideas that have worked at other churches. Provide opportunity for youth to do mission projects with YAV's. Involve youth in planning of events. – Rob Rippe, St. Philip, Hurst
- Church Youth group host PULSE team and other Presbytery-wide events. Provide list of church mission trips available for outside participants. Educate youth about local mission opportunities. – Alissa King, St. Philip, Hurst
- Wants to find ways for youth to participate in worship. – Kenny Rigoulot, United, Cleburne

Young Adult – Thom Lamb, Ann Treleven

Session 1 – 19 attendees

- Trying to get away from event planning and do more for individual congregation. – Jamie Cook, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Ministry at UTD, tap into kids (especially international students) who need spiritual nourishment. – Elizabeth Callender, Bentwood Trail, Dallas
- AMI (Atlanta Mission? Int'l) does just what Elizabeth was suggesting. Young Adult hospitality houses (SMU does this). List mission trips and provide scholarship so YA can go. Campus ministry investment (staff and ministry). YAV site in DFW. – Joe Clifford, First, Dallas
- They provide a social outlet (meal and conversation) every Sunday. – Liz, First, FW
- Get enough YA to participate; can we use social media – presbytery-wide? Get younger kids excited about being PCUSA (like Baptist kids already are) so when they become adults, they know where to go. – Mally Baum, Trinity, McKinney
- Provide a pathway at each step of life. Develop leadership. There is grief among members because churches don't have YA. – Chuck Schneider, Trinity, The Colony
- Grapevine has three kids at UTD. Give local contact names of local churches near the college. – Vicky B., Alpine, Longview
- Contact college ministry and gives them contact information of students and gives student contact information of college ministry. Central listing of college ministries. This age wants fewer events and more service things. YA bible study. – John Swindle, First, Athens
- Want same central listing of YA groups where YA are moving. – Alissa King, St. Philip, Hurst
- People moving frequently; they are transient. Help YA discern what gifts they have (i.e. help needed/help wanted lists). Have YA use their social media skills to help churches/colleges/NP.

Pay attention. YA are fearless about tackling tough issues (i.e. working with convicts who have been released). – Catherine Cuellar, First, Dallas

- Retreat to learn about YA. Being of service to YA to find them in the first place (like AMI). Creating a sense of community. Life-recovery programs for addicts. – Clay Brantley, First, Whitesboro
- Connection for young families – support groups. Difficult due to childcare issues. – Perryn Rice, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Survey existing YA. What brought them? What do they need? – Kemper Huber, St. Andrew, Longview
- Free babysitting – parents night out. Regional activities because we are so spread out. Nurture leadership so younger folks take over when older ones “age out”; and they take their leadership with them then they move on. – Thom Lamb, Grace, Temple
- College age young adults have people taking care of them. YA are moving to new area, may be attending church but not connecting. Ask YA to participate in some service project. – Janet Huber, St. Andrew, Longview

Session 2 – 12 attendees

- Get vision statement for YA committee on website. Invite/encourage people to get in the doors – social media and funds to use it. Competition – mega-church down the street. – Don Hogg, Westminster, FW
- There are three groups with vastly different needs: singles, married with kids, married without kids. Tall order to cater to all three. – Lee Jones, Northridge, Dallas
- There is a class for all YA, but it is too small to split into 3 separate classes. – Debbie Pitts, Tyler
- Church clusters (small churches) to provide ministry in cluster, be ecumenical. Have regional meetings. – John Hare, First, Greenville
- Doesn't work if group is too large. Set limits on age. – Kelly Staples, NorthPark, Dallas
- “Tribal Church” – hard to invest in transient people. How are YA doing church, not how we want them to do church. YA leadership at Presbytery level. People in leadership need to step down to allow younger people to lead. – Kendal Land, First, Longview
- YA will go to where they feel a connection. Family opens home and provides refreshments. – Evelyn Sparks, Woodhaven, Irving
- What if you only have one or two? Start a program and wait for them to come? – Lee Jones, Northridge, Dallas
- Get rid of barriers to serving (i.e. have to be a member for two years before becoming an elder.) How about shorter term things? – Leah Wyckoff, Grace Presbytery
- Make it OK to fail. – Thom Lamb, Grace, Temple
- YA plan own events. Try to incorporate YA in all ministries. Sherry K., Presbyterian Foundation

Session 3 – 4 attendees

- Need college ministry for Denton (UNT, TWU, etc.) Maybe all Presbyterian, maybe ecumenical. – Ben Miller, Trinity, Denton
- YA aren't denominationally linked, have ecumenical leadership. – Thom Lamb, Grace, Temple
- Mission Trips. Choir – YA get connected to an intergenerational group, it doesn't have a YA ministry name, but is relational! – Charlotte Koecher, Preston Hollow, Dallas

Stewardship – Paul Williams, Ken Johnson

Session 1 – 10 attendees

- Settlement game plan. Why give? – Ty Ballard, First, Garland
- Presbytery is “technically” funded by the churches – Robert McClennan, Trinity, Farmers Branch
- What added value? Grace Presbytery host (?) to congregation. Churches should give for added value. Show me the value. Market the church. Advertise. – Paul Hendricks, Trinity
- Open camps to more organizations. – Sherry Kenney
- Coordinating team on merger – best of covenant relationship. – Polly, St. Stevens/Woodhaven
- Youth events, support of congregation ministries. SHYC, etc. funds. Accountability, specific expectations, measurement. – Liz Williams, NorthPark, Dallas
- 1) Offer stewardship (?) 2(a) help congregations raise money b) info to help session understand why to support Grace Presbytery and inform congregation. Recount: 1) property maintenance 2) endowment 3) designated for specific things (not general operating). – Ben Miller, Trinity, Denton
- Excess in budget – Camp grounds, Gilmont – Youth Programs – Shirley Williams, Waxahachie
- Look at funds property expenses, legal expenses and legal property tax bills – Polly Williams, Waxahachie
- How educated are new ministers to understand Grace Presbytery needs? – Tom Sartor, First, Kilgore
- Agree with advertising. – Duke Burgess, DeSoto

Session 2 – 8 attendees

- Teach money management programs for churches and congregations – Dale Hamilton, First, Rockwall
- Stash away funds, try some things. Start up PCUSA in Highland Park. – Charlotte K., Preston Hollow, Dallas
- Joint ventures; think “now what?”; can't do the same thing; start an endowment. – Dale Patterson, Hackberry Creek, Irving

- Long term planning – a program (Dave Ramsey style) – money management for young families – video games – jump in and do it. New beginnings – online resources and tools, social networks. – Cindy Miller, Westminster, Corsicana
- Mission for younger members. – CR Barber, First, FW
- Breakfast for school aged not eating over the weekend. 150 each Saturday...self-funded. Not afraid to fail. – Lynn McIntier, First, Whitesboro
- New church development – next Presbytery meeting show the activities – Korean/ethnic – service clearing house. – Robert McCle..., Trinity, Flower Mound

Session 3 – 2 attendees

- Culture – why give to Presbytery? Elders don't want to give to GP and can't get anyone to come. Conflict on purpose of Grace Presbytery. – Bryan Stamper, Grace, Plano
- Leadership Training. So much conflict. Not focused on the mission. – Terry McClellan, Faith United, Farmers Branch

Evangelize – Ronnie Holloman, Lisa Juica

Session 1 – 10 attendees

- Marketing – Presbytery could help with marketing plans to get church's names in the public. Ex. Websites, cards, flyers. Presbytery could help make a difference in this way. – John Blacklock, First, McKinney
- Using some success stories to help others live into evangelism. Send around a "team" to empower other churches. – Paul Sherwood, First, Athens
- We have negative value in asking folks about their discipleship. Help in dispelling the negative value, figuring out what our value as Presbyterians are. Presbytery helping churches have name recognition. Presbytery have "best practices" guide for congregations. – Jim Witherow, Faith, Aledo
- It is not a part of Presbyterian culture. We need a culture change, gut change, heart change. Connecting with folks who have done evangelism well or if there is a model to learn those. Something like the Stephen Ministry teaching model method for evangelism. Focusing on small churches. – Deidre Maples, First, Cumby
- Spiritual renewal within congregation begins with evangelism. It makes it easier to go out and talk to others. Help with matters of spiritual renewal from presbytery. Evangelism will have to be risky. 1) Helping churches figure out their identity to be able to share with the community, 2) have presbytery (staff and committees) ask congregation face-to-face questions about evangelism. – Murray Richey, HR
- Going into community to form relationships and would like to know how to do that. Presbytery could help with this. Perhaps teaching evangelism ministry such as a soup ministry in homes/hospitality that can be shown. Invite our neighbors, generating relationships. Having topic, workshops on evangelism often. – Phyllis Danhof Speck, At large

- What can we do in Prosper (article in Dallas Morning News) and how can Presbytery plug in? New church Development possibly. That area is ripe for evangelism right now. – Joseph Whitner, Trinity, McKinney
- Websites, help with upkeep and design. – Marc Vita, First, McKinney
- Social Media is a good evangelism tool and a good sharing tool. – Amy Rork, First, Grapevine
- Helping churches to include evangelism in vision statements and then carry it out (Presbytery equipping them) 1) having a “press” person at presbytery level to help churches become more visible, especially the smaller churches. (radio, paper, Facebook, the web) 2) Being able to voice our faith concisely, and make Good News about it. – Lee Jones, Northridge, Dallas
- Educational help in evangelism. – Marilee Scroggs, First, Arlington
- Having Presbytery staff to visit with congregations more often than tri-annual visits. – Andy Wong, Gethsemane, FW

Session 2 – 10 attendees

- Renew passion for sharing gospel not member recruitment as reformed Presbyterians. – Ken Ritchie, First, Temple
- Utilizing the Grace Presbytery website with evangelism stories. Advertise more about forums, networks on website. – Barbara Ritchie, First, Temple
- Talking with congregation about how/what types of evangelism that is taking place. 15 second commercial to help others know what it means to be Presbyterian. – Charles Teykl, St. Philip, Hurst
- Have more mass media appeal. Presbytery should begin thinking about getting the church’s name out there. Presbytery wide media campaign to improve the PCUSA brand. It would help our churches. (thinking about Texas Health Ebola crisis) – Richard Selby, First, Lancaster
- Be a resource in putting them in touch with congregations doing evangelism well or doing evangelism that would be helpful in helping them identify evangelism. Reaching out to congregation about evangelism. Noticing similarities among ministries. Provide training for evangelism committees. Someone to talk to committees from other congregations among the presbytery. – Bob Crilley, First, Grapevine
- Meet face to face with folks about evangelism in Presbytery (regional conferences for evangelism). Webinars for evangelism. Do it in regions. – Julius Edah, United African, Dallas
- Providing resources help to evangelize to racial/ethnic groups. Being intentional in collaborating folks together. – Horacio Gutierrez, Chaplain
- Perhaps have revivals for evangelism. Igniting passion to share with communities. – Vicki Bailey, Alpine, Longview
- Renewal services that help folks. – Princeton Abaraoha, First, Midlothian

Session 3 – 18 attendees

- Presbytery should define evangelism and help congregations live into that definition. Answering the question “how to evangelize in the 21st century?” and helping congregation live into the answers. What are the ethical ways to use social media to evangelize? – Perryn Rice, Lake Highlands, Dallas
- Have the folks that wrote “The New Parish” come and talk to the Presbytery. Inform congregation what the National church is doing about evangelism. – Diane Baldwin, Woodhaven, Irving
- Church outside the walls. Presbytery helping/resourcing with congregation to be able to do this. Mobile Resource Team to visit congregations. – Shirley Williams, Waxahachie
- Marketing, Branding. People to visit to help with marketing and branding. Website help, resources for attractive websites. Empower cluster formation around evangelism. – Polly Williams, Waxahachie
- Create a webinar series about evangelism, theologians, etc. for congregations to participate in. – Laura Houston, First, Richardson
- Helping congregations live into their communities. Presbytery could help redefine evangelism. Helping pastors to live in communities. Wants to hear about staff’s passion about Jesus Christ. Also, Presbytery Council. Sharing faith stories and then equip the rest of us to do that. – Clay Brantley, First, Whitesboro
- Presbytery helping congregations to understand generations for evangelism not only stewardship. – Jodi Haun, First, Grapevine
- Presbytery should go to congregations to listen to what they are doing in and around evangelism. – Kendal Land, First, Longview
- Help churches to ask and answer questions about evangelism. – Fred Baur, Bentwood Trail, Dallas
- Promote the congregation to be comfortable in your beliefs, and then you can talk about it anywhere. So that congregation/people would be comfortable talking about what they believe with others. Help folks. – Jim Barker, First, FW
- Looking for resources from Presbytery. Spend time with Hispanic congregation to understand Hispanic evangelism and then integrate it across cultures. – Daniel Alatorre, Bethany
- Stop worrying about our bottom line for members and worry about sharing the word. – Sherry Siler, St. Philip, Hurst

Congregational Programming – Miatta Wilson, Linda Willis

Session 1 – 9 attendees

- Support Care of Creation – Environmentalism – Connect the people. – Kathy Porter
- Based on experiences in Presbytery – Grace vs. nationally – Share with interested congregations similarities found in “successful” churches. Just read “Autopsy of a Dying Church...12 common traits of a successful church.” (not exact title). It would be very interesting to hear our conclusion based on Presbytery churches.

- Provide concrete programs that –retired pastors or –stated supply or -parish associates, could do for other congregations...like a program pool. – Greg Garis, St. Philip, Hurst
- Who is my neighbor? Find the three closest schools and find how we can help teachers, maintenance, music/recreation leaders. Partner with schools in other town and work with church there to help. Pastors are friends too. Volunteer for your pastor, for your educator or choir director, volunteer to another church. Get the word out! – David Fletcher
- Be a central clearing house for more than a “library” but people resources, too.
- Communications is a big issue.
- Provide models of churches partnering with each other, sharing resources.
- Pay someone on staff to be available as a resource for personnel questions or insurance or legal or accounting.....
- Hymn sings that travel? Have singing schools to teach congregations to sing – for faith formation and to form community and to enrich worship.
- Presbytery could help congregations who are starting a new program to be in touch with a congregation who has already had success with a similar program. – Bob Crilley
- Connecting congregations across the Presbytery in like-minded ministries. E.g. – one church doing a concert series with another church doing concerts. – Greg Garis, St. Philip, Hurst
- Marjorie Thompson, Spiritual formation initiatives, Soul Feast, Companions in Christ, Teach the Leaders – Lil Smith, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Sharing measurement of success list that Jan shared with us, “An Outcome Is”. Email to jziehm@sbcglobal.net – Judy Ziehm, Westminster, Dallas
- Presbytery could ask churches that do something well to mentor with a church that is struggling to do that. – Bob Crilley
- Have people (organizations) professionals on retainer that all churches can draw on.
- Presbytery help me to make connections
- How to join congregations together. Study a body.
- Be a resource to me and to my church to see what other churches are doing/have done.
- Presbytery could look at the potential for ministry in certain areas and suggest to a congregation that they launch a new ministry that could reach out and respond. – Bob Crilley
- Passive resource and proactive. Example. Inform about changes in community.
- Communication across Presbytery (among congregations) to share ideas, resources, guest teachers/ leaders/ speakers. Centralize this kind of information. – Margaret Etheredge, Northridge, Dallas
- Council – Embrace the new and try things even if you fail and move on quickly (young adults won’t wait)

- Post the results of this sharing/listening time
- Corporative ministry with neighboring congregations. – Greg Garis, St. Philip, Hurst
- Grace e-news measure by putting out. Let's look at the content, share information, not just events
- Regional resource to know – consultants list
- Assistance teams to help aging, struggling-to-stay-alive congregations. – Margaret Etheredge, Northridge, Dallas
- Be a liaison to regional programming. Have a committee to coordinate Mo Ranch, Montreat, Ghost Ranch, and Iona. – Lil Smith, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Offer in-house leadership training for new elders, deacons, committee chairs, above and beyond "elder training". E.g. how to conduct meetings, how to delegate, etc. – Margaret Etheredge, Northridge, Dallas

Session 2 – 11 attendees

- Provide "how to" manuals on how to implement specific programs like youth group, fellowship lunches, older adult ministry, adult mission trips, etc.
- Have gatherings, like the educators group, but for other areas like stewardship, mission, communications, etc.
- Hosting conferences/speakers on topics that are related to "running" a church
- Make our Resource Room bigger – encourage larger churches to donate things (ex. VBS materials)
- Training for church officers like treasurers, Clerks of Session, How to moderate a committee. – Deidre Maples, First, Cumby
- Have themes that go across – communication, resource/educator staff, consultant pool list, clearing house of people resources and "experts" or used resources, go to people
- We need a Presbyterian "Craig's List" with talents and less physical needs.
- Training leaders within congregations on practical aspects on serving as a leader. Educating member/leaders on Presbyterian theology. Supporting summer camps and programming for children and youth. Training elders on stewardship campaigns and church budgets. Identifying and coordinating local mission needs.
- Provide buying groups making us eligible for discounts with church needs like van rentals, specialty cleaning, background checks, and technology purchases.
- Program to get Fathers involved once the family comes.
- Connect skills to needs. Find ways to connect churches so we can help one another. Family work camps, helping elderly congregations maintain physical property, helping to create a website, other talents which can be shared in this way.

- Provide programs/retreats for families in small congregations, in areas of interest. Ex parents/teens, dealing with aging parents, etc.
- Help small congregations develop programs. Possible method = find a small congregation that has a working program and resource/incentivize them to offer help and consulting to other small congregations that want to develop that program. If you can't find a small church with that program type, encourage/assist a small congregation to develop a program that works and then THEY consult. – Deidre Maples, First, Cumby
- Help connect small churches with each other to build programs for youth activities, Bible study, fellowship for youth and adults, etc.
- Sporadic / irregular attendance – Christine Blair, Eastminster
- Someone to answer question that a church office may ask – how to do a specific thing. Something less comprehensive than training.

Session 3 – no attendance listed

- Facilitate sharing ideas among local congregations. This might take the form of organizing forums where individuals can share what they have done that works in different areas. – Rob Rippe, St. Philip, Hurst
- Quarterly community recycling projects – e-cycling, clean-ups, eyeglasses, cell phones. This ends up building community and getting information out to folks.
- Communicate to congregations what types of programs and assistance is available. I understand there is a website and research can be done, but we need a direct outreach. Presbytery appears to be something in the distance. Ask each session to submit their three biggest needs. Frame the discernment with both money and personnel support.
- Provide a paid consultant for particular churches. (more focused on New beginnings but not only NB churches)
- Provide current demographics around church buildings so we can see who is REALLY in our neighborhood, age, ethnicity, etc. Provide help to get any details needed. – Susan Musfeldt, Grace, Arlington
- Consultant pool on different topics
- Pay for church's websites.
- Provide information on "success stories" of other congregations' programming. – Rob Rippe, St. Philip, Hurst
- Utilize Gilmont for mission, spiritual formation, etc. Think Fern Cliff – PDA, Solar Under the Sun, etc.
- Be the HUB for smaller congregations in a specific area joining together several times a year to worship together and to service together. Share resources. – Jodi Haun, First, Grapevine
- Hanes on Christian Educator support for smaller congregations. Meaning financial support for both educator and time and resources for church. Musical hands on training for volunteer

leaders or churches seeking musical leadership. Provide resource person and money for small church. Expand resource Center, both person and resources. Maybe mobile resources center that travels to areas of presbytery. Blessing of ideas for congregation and not gate-keeping (allow congregations to wish) – Tom Tickner

- Bring resources to churches – like “bookmobile”
- Think creatively, GROW relationships and camping opportunities.
- Bring back ACT in some fashion or form
- Develop a VBS coordinator staff position in order to share resources between congregations. Encourage conversation between youth and seniors in congregations i.e. mentoring of youth both in church and school. – Ron Rousefeldt, Grace Arlington.
- Facilitate communication between congregations – what worked, what didn’t, needs, resources to offer
- Things do not have to stay the same as they always have. Graying church needs “conservative” ways to progress – Sarah Camp, Kilgore
- Specific programs like youth, children and older adults.

Congregational Nurture – Kathy Jones, Pat Dean

Session 1 – 14 attendees

- Connection between church and presbytery. Congregation benefits from Grace bringing ideas back; what are other models in Grace; once a year to brainstorm at Grace – sharing time. Regular meetings by Grace to churches. – Charles Teykl, St. Philip, Hurst
- Smaller church; help with procedures from younger ministers to interact with committee – seems missing; procedures would be helpful; “What did Grace do?” breakout by interest groups/ today is model; Presbytery internship – like with a church. – Stephen Davey, Waco
- New Beginnings (NB) – where are we in neighborhood, what can we do? Yearly progress. (Stephen didn’t know about this program and was advised to talk to Ronnie Holloman about it). – Phyllis Kidwell, First, Tyler
- Is NB going to Grace to train leaders. – Judy Ewald, Westminster, FW
- Aging – aging needs; establish group. Increase NB; Looking how to establish care group, have needs; to bridge gap; don’t have program to help; meeting with other congregation; looking for fresh way; other senior citizen support – meet any needs; looking for other church. Need information before Presbytery to prepare for break outs. – Laura Houston, First, Richardson
- Discussed grants from congregational support committee and sub-committee. – Phyllis Kidwell, First, Tyler
- Let us know how model is working. More publicity? 1 of the 14 of you knew about the Congregational Support Grants. – Kathy Jones, NorthPark, Dallas

- Consultants very effective as are grants; develop grants. Web-meetings, record, post. – Bryan Stamper, Grace Plano
- Using outside resources, particularly smaller churches; support for smaller churches with tech assistance; geographically challenged for sharing; have opportunities for sharing in regional area; a leader in the area would plan events in area and facilitate in area – feel like “step-sister”. – Ken Ritchie, First, Temple
- COM less authoritarian – Presbytery too. Negative feelings are passed to younger generation. Need good feelings from Grace, didn’t want Grace involved. – Judith Austin, First, Athens

Key points – Communication of existing grants, resources, Grace open and inviting, set-up at Presbytery sharing groups, support smaller churches which have limited \$’s, areas facilitate outlying church for resource. Consultants take burdens from pastors.

Session 2 – 17 attendees

- Communicate what is going on in churches. People don’t trust presbytery. For example, a church brought an overture to presbytery which was voted on and approved; later, at another (called?) presbytery meeting, there was a re-do on the vote and it did not pass, so the overture was not presented to GA. – Jim Barber, First, FW
- Breakout groups – Retreat refreshing. Renewed – promotion. – Suzy Rhodes, First, FW
- How can we bring spiritual care to assisted living facilities with no chaplain? Churches in the same area could work together to provide “on-call” chaplain. Right now we are reactive – not proactive. – Lil Smith, At large
- Match Sr. citizen with volunteer. Model after ACT – multi-subject again. – Phyllis Speck, First, Dallas
- Seminars for small churches for spiritual care; also Stephen ministry; in Grace we gather info (business meeting does not require 2 days); we have so many administrative commissions where a church’s business is made public. – John Blacklock, First, McKinney
- List of websites for all churches in Grace Presbytery – communicate that to COM. Pool money, and then give to one person (self-funding). Resource sharing between congregations – Deidre Maples, First, Cumby
- High level of trust doesn’t exist with Grace; we need additional time to discuss issues fully as well as more transparency. Mission initiative grants are too small – not worth the trouble; return \$ - currently not working well. Not friendly. Kick-starter website – Vickie Griffin, Jacksonville
- Assistance available – a class. Connection between church – Kay McLellan, Faith United
- Professional experts for churches to call on before having to go to COM; maybe family systems’ experts. – Vickie Griffin, Jacksonville
- Proactivity – partnership between churches for elder training. Build relationship with presbytery; tri-annual visits at church. Website with Grace to “kick-start” donations (create a CD). All websites linked together. – Gordon Blackman, Alpine, Longview

- More of a Presbytery/COM built relationship.

Session 3 – 12 attendees

- Nurture and Ed subcommittee. Sub-committee of COM (feeding, congregation loving one another), has trained camp leaders. Church life cycle 50-60 years. – Dick Selby, First Lancaster
- In worship, have to be willing to re-invent. – Kathy Jones, NorthPark, Dallas
- “Don’t want to be hurt.” Just listen, not talk. Invite Congregation Redevelopment Team to church – have a book of resources. We don’t trust each other. – Tom Laney, Henderson
- We don’t go to church to be hurt. – David Logan, St. Stephen, FW
- “Faith Discovery Weekend” – one church to another. Dis-trust with Grace – creating trust requires communication. – Tom Tickner, VM
- Some churches need to be allowed to die. Every Pastor who is a member of Grace should volunteer one week/year to serve a camp, train, or just serve at large. Program to discovery of gifts. – Candice Klein, First, Henderson
- Nurture is develop and help with crisis...in congregations you help the homebound. Grace needs teams that can focus on care and feeding of congregation. – Martha Etheredge, Northridge, Dallas
- Team should be proactive to go out...don’t wait until there’s a problem. – Samantha McKenzie, Canyon Creek, Richardson
- Have consultants that go help. – Tim Greaves, Hackberry Creek, Irving
- Ministers don’t want to share their elders with Grace. We get little feedback when we ask ministers for elders to serve on presbytery structures. – Mike Thompson, Grace Presbytery
- “Dying Church” – are there success stories that turned around? What would “success” look like? Presentation at Presbytery. Merge Church. – Judy Ziehm, Westminster, Dallas.

Other comments:

- We need to do a better job of communicating about New Beginnings, technology, mission initiative grants.
- Listening groups – communicate specifics ahead of time so people can know what’s going on. Make sure folks come who are interested in the topics.
- Courses for pastors to nurture them so they can nurture their congregations
- Renovare – Saturday seminars – Stephen Ministry
- Experts in family systems on retainer
- Notes to sessions – are you supporting your pastor?
- Triennial visits – IN PERSON visits; cross-section of COM and redevelopment committee and congregational support?

- Webinars
- Can we link all churches' websites together?
- Internal congregational nurture
- Nurture and Education for congregation
- Churches that have been successful in changing their trajectory – tell these stories at the presbytery meetings