

Presbytery Listening/Restructure Taskforce

Report to Presbytery February 2015

Summary of the Proposal

The Listening/Restructure Taskforce has been working for two years to produce a comprehensive proposal for the Presbytery of Arkansas. We are grateful to all of our colleagues, fellow Presbyterians, the Presbytery Staff, and others who have contributed to this proposal.

The proposal is the product of lengthy discussions and deliberation by the committee and presbytery. We are grateful for the input from across the presbytery. Although we were not able to adopt every proposal presented, we gave all input received close consideration. After prayerful discernment, we believe the proposed structure presents the best opportunity for the presbytery to meet its goals and vision. Additionally, the structure is sufficiently flexible to meet new needs as they arise.

The Listening/Restructure Taskforce proposes that the presbytery adopt a new Ministry Manual including presbytery organization and structure, duties for presbytery committees, and all relevant policies and procedures of the presbytery. This Ministry Manual will replace the current Standing Rules and Manual of Operations of the presbytery.

The Ministry Manual is presented in six parts:

- **Organization and Structure (Red)**- Replacing current Standing Rules
- **Ministry and Committee Duties (Blue)**- Amending and adapting portions of the current Manual of Operations
- **Policies and Procedures (Orange)**- Amending and adapting portions of the current Manual of Operations
- **Personnel and Presbytery Leadership (Purple)**- Consolidating current job descriptions and personnel policies
- **Covenants and Partnerships (Green)**- Consolidating current covenants and agreements with partners in ministry
- **Standing Rules (Gold)**- Gathering ongoing rules adopted for specific purposes but not included elsewhere in policy

The Organization and Structure section accompanies this report. The Ministry and Committee Duties and Policies and Procedures sections will follow separately. The remaining sections will be compiled and formatted from existing presbytery resources when the presbytery adopts the proposed structure.

At the February meeting in Clarksville the presbytery will be asked to vote to adopt the Organization and Structure and the Ministry and Committee Duties sections. These sections set the groundwork for implementing the new presbytery structure. If the presbytery votes in the affirmative in February, the June assembly in Benton will be asked to affirm that vote. If a majority of both meetings votes to adopt the proposals, we will begin to implement the new structure. A potential timeline for implementation follows.

Timeline for Implementation

When approved by the presbytery, the new structure will be implemented over the course of the spring and summer of 2015.

February 21- The presbytery is asked to vote to affirm the new structure and accompanying documents.

March/April- The Listening/Restructure Taskforce will work with committee leadership and the Nominating Committee to prepare a plan for transition of committee membership.

June 6- The presbytery is asked to affirm the vote taken in February. After the presbytery votes in the affirmative for the second time, the new structure will take effect 60 days later.

August 6- The new structure takes effect.

Motions for Presbytery

The Listening/Restructure Taskforce moves that:

1. The Presbytery of Arkansas repeal the current Standing Rules and adopt the document titled “Structure and Organization.” Such change will take effect 60 days after a majority of the presbytery votes in the affirmative at two successive meetings.
Note: In accordance with the Standing Rules, this section of the proposed Ministry Manual will be made available 14 days before the February meeting of the presbytery.
2. The Presbytery of Arkansas repeal the current Manual of Operations and adopt the documents titled “Ministry and Committee Duties” and “Policies and Procedures.” Such changes will take effect 60 days after a majority of the presbytery votes in the affirmative at two successive meetings.
Note: These sections will be made available as two separate documents prior to the February meeting.