

Jeff's Jottings

Changing patterns and practices

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Last week, I wrote that I wanted to think with you in this column about two things:

- What does it look like to be the church in the 21st century?
- And how should we be measuring our impact and effectiveness? (Hint: it's not with traditional metrics of membership and dollars.)

Those two questions were prompted by a front-page article in the July 8 Star Tribune on declining churches, and the reality that patterns and practices of church life in the 21st century look different than before. (Hmmm ... what patterns and practices for anything look the same as they did 50 years ago?)

A number of you responded; thank you for that. Over the next few weeks, we'll explore some of what you're saying, and what others are saying, about the shape of the church in the future. I expect you'll agree with some of it, and not with other parts. Can we agree that we'll approach these weeks in a spirit of learning and growth?

Today's three:

- A blog post from the PCUSA's immediate past co-moderator, Jan Edmiston (<http://bit.ly/2L8KiD1>).
- A three-minute video on the vision of our own Andrew-Riverside Presbyterian Church (<https://vimeo.com/278214036>).
- A column from frequent internet blogger and church consultant Carey Nieuwhof (<http://bit.ly/2L57X7o>). (You just have to wade through his frequent promotions.)

Ask yourself: what one thing caught my attention in each? What puzzled me?
And what did I learn?

More conversation next week.