

Rev. Ed Wegele, a member of the Governance Task Force, encourages you to share the details of the restructuring proposal with your congregation and discuss it:

As we take the summer to look over the proposal to change our governance as a presbytery, it is important to share this with our congregations. These next two months are important in having conversations and getting participation from as many of our congregations as possible. The task force has been intentional in getting as many voices at that table to help us move into this new season. This is our presbytery and we care about our now and our future. It will take all of us to help make the changes needed to help each of us walk together. This new structure is intended to help us serve one another better and be a stronger connectional bonds between each other as we improve our communication with each other in caring for one another.

Please take the time to look over the proposal and see if you and your congregation can identify these elements in the proposal. If there is something missing, or something that can be improved upon within the structure, or if you like what you see, please let the task force know as we prepare for the vote at our August meeting. This is the strength of being Presbyterian: we are connected together, we care for one another, and we walk with each other to help strengthen and support each other. The better we do this, not only does each of our congregations thrive, our presbytery thrives as well.

Often presbyteries spend too much time on what is wrong and not going well. We can get locked in on declining numbers in the churches and how much money we have left before we have to shut down. With this change in structure, there is also a huge opportunity to change our mindset. The opportunities to share with each other in Affinity groups and Regional Cohorts gives us the ability to share our churches successes and inviting others into collaborative ministry partnerships to strengthen and empower each other. The Commission on Pastoral Leadership and Commission on Congregational Life gives the focus needed to walk with pastors and congregations as we grow with each other and gives more time to celebrate this growth. We can shift from what made us great in the past to looking forward to the opportunities that are in front of us now.

Our presbytery has a lot of gifts and talents among our diverse body of witnesses, and this is the time for us to work together on serving our diverse communities. The 83 church communities that we represent can and will thrive, and it is actively happening right now. So, let us continue this work as we strengthen our bonds together and work on our structure to guide us into our future. Thank you!