

Envisioning Task Force (ETF): Proposed Final Report Scope and Outline **April 14, 2008**

REPORT SCOPE

The ETF will report on between 3-5 key questions or issues for the future ministry of Westminster and related recommendations to address them. The implication of a key question or issue is that we are called by God to build or change our current ministry in order to address them. In turn, the ETF will not cover all aspects of the future ministry, programs, budget, etc. of Westminster. Our working assumption is that any current program or activity that is not called out as an area for significant change will continue in its current form, consistent with the 2006 Mission Statement and available resources.

The ETF will describe each question or issue area as precisely as possible, including:

- an issue statement and background that summarizes how it was selected
- “the call”—a biblical and theological grounding—how it expresses our faith
- relevant facts or findings that support each recommendation

The recommendations will propose:

- direction and key actions necessary for implementation
- if necessary, high-level resource implications or requirements relative to dollars, staff, facilities and volunteer time
- rough timeframe for each recommendation in years
- responsible committee or special group for implementation

The recommendations will not provide implementation details, budgets, timelines or plans. The ETF plans to present its final report to the Session in November 2008.

FINAL REPORT OUTLINE

1. Mission, purpose and membership of the Envisioning Task Force
2. Overview of ETF process and communications
3. Key questions or issues for the future of Westminster’s ministry
4. Recommendations
5. Addendum (March Entreat Summary, Town Hall Meeting Results, etc.)

Envisioning Task Force (ETF): Proposed Timeline
April 23, 2008

April 23

Report to Session

May 4

Town Hall Meeting #1: Validate/discuss key questions about Westminster's future ministry

May 19

Town Hall Meeting #2

May 28

Report to Session: Town Hall outcomes, final "short list" of questions/issues

June-September

Discussions with committees, staff, etc. re. "responses/recommendations" to key questions/issues

September-October

Second round of Town Hall meetings

October 22

Preliminary Report with Responses/Recommendations to Session

November 26

Final Report to Session

January 2009

Communications to Congregation, etc.

**Envisioning Task Force (ETF): Summary Report from Officer Entreat
April 23, 2008**

Westminster has been called to serve through vibrant corporate worship, mission, education and fellowship. As we near the end of a successful chapter in the life of Westminster, what's next? How will we worship well into the future? What questions must we ask to continue faithfully serving one another, our community, our nation's capital, and the world?

In preparation for the Officer Entreat on March 8, the Envisioning Task Force asked each participant to submit the one question about Westminster's future ministry which they felt was most important. These questions were then combined with questions that had been developed by the ten task force members. Altogether, there were 60 questions ranging across a broad spectrum that were collected by the task force and used as a starting point for the Entreat. At the end of the Entreat, each of the eight small groups was asked to select three questions from the list of 60 which they as a group thought were most important. The 15 questions below are the ones that emerged as most important from that day-long process. *Note: In cases where more than one group selected the same question, the number of groups selecting that question is shown in parentheses.*

Worship:

A2: What does it mean to "worship well" and how does it make us more intentional in our outreach to other people, our community, and our nation? How does "worship well" relate to, enhance and connect with education, fellowship, and mission? (2)

A3: (Do) We still embrace the 2006 mission statement that "Westminster is a worshipping community deeply committed to study, service, and sharing God's Love," with the associated schematic of worship at the core leading to education, mission and fellowship? How do we fulfill this?

A4 revised: Is it important that our Sunday services, rituals and other activities have both an intellectual/teaching aspect, and also give us something that is directly applicable to the questions and issues we are facing in our daily lives?

Mission:

C1: How do we define mission, and how do we measure our dedication to mission?

C6: Should WPC expand its mission activities in the local community? How can the congregation have a more pronounced impact on local mission in Alexandria? How can WPC use its assets (music, time, individual talents) to engage the community, other churches, civic groups, etc?

C7: Do we need to refocus on mission? If so, should we refocus our efforts on increased national/international needs, or on an identifiable role in the community? And depending on how we answer that last question, how do we identify the area of greatest need? (2)

C14: What do we need to do to encourage the growth of mission involvement, so that as many members as possible are joyfully committed to a specific mission project? How do we better integrate mission into the life of the church? [One group felt that Local Mission needs staffing to lead its efforts.

Another group felt that we should develop a major mission initiative in the Alexandria area comparable in scope and effectiveness to our Moi's Bridge project in Kenya.] (3)

Spiritual Growth/Membership:

B1: How do we encourage the average member to take on a role of greater involvement in the life of the church? How should we be helping them to find their own calling within the church?

B5: How can we enhance caring, fellowship, connectedness, and involvement among church members which creates a welcoming facility and environment for visitors? (2)

Membership:

D3: How do we attract new members and continue to interest existing members? How will we continue to remain a vital and relevant church to all ages (especially youth), and a source of hope and support in an increasingly secular world? (4)

D4. How do we make our church more relevant for everyone, especially the youth and younger generations, who are clearly wondering how our services and rituals fit in with the world they see every day, and who want issues such as religious tolerance and hypocrisy addressed in a more direct manner in the context of world events (war, poverty, immigration, etc.)? (3)

Programs/Staffing:

E1: Should a future ministry program focus primarily on something new, on improving existing ministries, or both?

E7: How can WPC best use staff and volunteers to maintain and grow a community of learning and scholarship?

- preaching
- teaching
- education
- intellectual diversity
- an open, accepting community is a strength that allows us to do this

E11: ***How*** will we continue to emphasize Christian Education for all ages in order to continue building a strong foundation for ministry? (*emphasis added*)

Other:

G2: How does our ministry context differ from 15-20 yrs ago and what new possibilities might emerge in our church life as a result?