

Vision Statement

We recommend that the Presbytery of Charlotte engage in prayer for the guiding of God's Spirit for this process and the future of Charlotte Presbytery.

I. Preamble:

The Presbytery of Charlotte will be a demonstration of what God intends for all humanity through Christ's mission and justice.

II. Core Values of the Presbytery:

a. Unity in Christ

We begin with our unity in Christ rather than the diversity that exists within our Presbytery.

b. Compassion

This is reflected in a more intentional caring for one another and our outreach to the communities where we live and serve.

c. Discipleship

We are attempting to embrace and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a broken and fearful world that often does not affirm the Gospel.

III. Vision Statement:

- ◆ We will encourage the development of Christian community through closer relationships among our churches based on our unity in Christ.**
- ◆ We will be faithful to the transformation of our congregations through Church development and redevelopment as an evangelical expression of our commitment to the future of the Presbyterian Church (USA).**
- ◆ We will passionately commit to the care and nurture of our church professionals, striving to equip and educate them with the intent to produce excellence in leadership for congregational life and Christian service.**
- ◆ We will work for justice and the common good so that the poor hear good news, the captives find freedom, and the oppressed receive liberty.**

IV. Strategic Plan:

Background for Strategic Plan

The mission study team received information from focus groups, the results of a Presbytery Meeting survey, Percept demographics, interviews and consultations with individuals in the Presbytery and leaders throughout the denomination. This information helped us formulate the following strategic planning priorities for the mission of Charlotte Presbytery.

Christian Community

There exists a lack of connectionalism and sense of community among our churches.

- **We recommend the sharing of resources, the building of networks, and the development of communication systems.**

There are geographical considerations that contribute to our sense of separateness.

- **We recommend the establishment of a satellite office in the Albemarle area to better service Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly Counties.**
- **We recommend that Council evaluate the value of changing the name of our Presbytery to more accurately reflect the seven counties of the Presbytery.**

There exists a yearning for more Christian fellowship among our churches and at meetings of Presbytery.

- **We recommend that sessions develop ways for their congregation to engage with other congregations in their region and/or across cultural, geographic and racial bounds. Sessions are encouraged to share their plans with the Committee on Ministry in order to develop models for other churches.**
- **We recommend the establishment of a Presbytery-wide Youth network, a revitalized Youth Council and a recommitment to ministry with young adults in our communities as well as our college campuses.**
- **We recommend that Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee be more intentional about encouraging our unity in Christ at Presbytery meetings.**

Church Transformation: Church Development and Redevelopment

It is imperative that our congregations be missional expressions of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. New churches must be started; existing churches must be clustered, redeveloped, revitalized, sustained or closed.

- **We recommend the establishment of an evangelism network.**
- **We recommend that Church Development and Evangelism be the highest priorities in the job description of a Presbytery staff position.**
- **We recommend that 100% of the assets from the sale of closed churches and at least 70% of the assets from the sale of other properties of the Presbytery be specifically allocated to Church development and redevelopment.**
- **We recommend that new congregations be started to produce vital churches for the future of the Presbyterian Church (USA).**
- **We recommend that special consideration be given to the redevelopment of African American congregations and the development of racial ethnic and new immigrant congregations.**

Pastoral Care and Nurture for Church Professionals

There is a need in our Presbytery to provide pastoral care for Church Professionals.

- **We recommend that our staff include a full time person devoted to coordinating pastoral care, developing resources and educational opportunities to promote the health of our church leaders.**

Mission and Justice

We recognize that we live in a broken and fearful world.

- **We recommend that the Presbytery of Charlotte continue to support mission and ministry both within and beyond the boundaries of the Presbytery of Charlotte and the Presbyterian Church (USA).**
- **We recommend that the Presbytery of Charlotte develop new ways to encourage and empower mission and ministry that go beyond budgetary funding.**
- **We recommend that the Mission and Justice Committee develop a strategic plan by September 15, 2004 that establishes our funding priorities for mission and justice.**

Further recommendations:

In order to facilitate the vision articulated in this document the Mission Study Team is keenly aware of the financial resources needed to implement this strategic plan. As good stewards, we must develop ways to secure an expanding financial base for the mission and ministry of this Presbytery for the greater glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **We recommend the establishment of a stewardship network.**
- **We recommend that Council initiate a study regarding the future financial needs of the congregations and the Presbytery as a whole, including the feasibility of a Capital Campaign.**

We thank the Presbytery of Charlotte for the opportunity to serve on the Mission Study Team. The faith and commitment of our brothers and sisters have been a source of inspiration to this Mission Study Team. The Scriptures promise, “by the power at work within us [Christ] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.¹” The Presbytery of Charlotte has been blessed and is called to be a blessing to the community and world around us. With God’s help, we will be able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

- **We recommend that a nine person committee be appointed by the moderator to oversee the implementation of the above recommendations.**
- **We ask Council to recommend to Presbytery a single Search Committee to secure two Associate Presbyters. We further recommend that an African American be Chairperson of this Search Committee.**
- **We recommend that the Presbytery of Charlotte engage in prayer for the guiding of God’s Spirit for this process and the future of Charlotte Presbytery.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mission Study Team

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¹ NRSV Ephesians 3:20