

October 2024 Mission Strategy Report for Yukon Presbytery
Rev. Elizabeth Schultz

In October 2023, written notes were collected from members of the Presbytery on the following topics: **“Hopes and Goals for Presbytery Function and Support”, “Hopes and Goals for Presbytery Meetings”, and “Trainings and Presentations Needed.”** Those notes were emailed to all pastors and church leaders after that meeting, brought to the following meeting, and can be emailed or mailed again if needed. They will also be placed on the Website.

In February 2024, our discerning work continued with members of the Presbytery meeting breaking into small groups. Each group focused on one of the **“Roles of a Presbytery”** from the Book of Order (G-3.03), offering suggestions to **“Strategy Statements (Goals)”** provided by the Leadership Team/Executive Board and Executive Presbyter after their review of the Mission Strategy Notes collected at the October 2023 Presbytery Meeting. A summary of those notes will also be placed on the website

From review of both discussions/reports, and the **“Summary of Self-Assessment, Presbytery of Yukon”**, by Rev. Eliana Maxim in September 2021, clear themes have emerged regarding the priorities of our Presbytery, helping us to define our Mission Strategy.

Our Presbytery places a high value on the following key focus areas, while emphasizing cultural understandings of our Alaska Native communities within each one.

- Communication and Connection
- Supporting all Churches and Ministries
- Leadership Development and Ongoing Educational Support
- Increased Church Participation, with an Emphasis on Youth and Young adults
- Ongoing Work on Race Reconciliation, Equity and Decolonization
- Creative Approaches to Geographical and Financial challenges

I am happy to report that many of the suggestions and strategies (goals) that have been highlighted, are already happening. For example, each report mentions the need for more training, specifically leadership training for Ruling Elders and Commissioned Lay Pastors. The CLP taskforce within the Ministry Commission has been working incredibly hard to update our entire CLP program, which will include the recruitment and training of new CLPs and adding additional support for our existing CLPs. This is one example of the way that our Presbytery is already living into our shared mission as we continue to make crucial and faithful decisions about our future.

The Executive Board and committee leadership will continue to develop **“Mission Strategy Actions”** to help us reach our goals. We will work creatively and faithfully to identify as many ***budget neutral actions*** as possible, understanding that some of our actions will cost more than others. **Ideas and suggestions from any member of the Presbytery will always be welcome in this work!**