

## Report of the Vision Team

May 21, 2022

There is an African proverb that states, *“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to travel far, go together.”*

That is a pretty good summary of the Vision Team’s last meeting when it met to review the initial report from CounterStories Consulting. Prior to this meeting, the Vision Team met with David Hooker, lead consultant, in January. Then, an expanded group called the Process Creation Team met for 12 hours over the course of four Saturdays in February. The Process Creation Team was made up of the Vision Team and additional voices the Vision Team believed would enhance the overall process (youth, people with disabilities, technical thinkers, etc.).

The Process Creation Team, after reviewing the initial report, is considering whether it needs to slow down our discernment process in order to ensure a vision that reflects the whole presbytery. But slowing down the process does not mean doing less work. It means evaluating and prioritizing the work that needs to be done during this journey. To that end, developing a cohesive vision and mission statement may take a back seat at this moment. The top priorities identified by some members of the team include,

- Helping Congregations as they emerge from the pandemic
- Addressing the shortage in Pastoral Leadership
- Building relationships within the presbytery

In short, there is an expressed desire to focus on meeting these present needs while also moving forward with the implementation of the CounterStories recommendations - although on a different timeline than the one outlined in the report. The budget for the consultant would then go towards implementation of the consultants recommendations.

Another concern that voiced a need to pause is that "people in the pews" do not understand what a presbytery does or even why it exists. It was determined the first two tasks outlined in the report are important to help inform the presbytery and should not be delayed. Those tasks are:

1. Develop a video to introduce the scope of the presbytery’s work.
2. Develop a Communication Strategy to keep the presbytery informed of the ongoing process

A small group is forming to address these initial tasks while the Vision Team as a whole tackles the priorities identified above.

The initial report from CounterStories can be found in the May 21st Stated meeting documents. Please note that the report is not a final report. It is a report of the process creation team's work to develop a discernment process for the whole presbytery.

**Process Creation Team**

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