

## Living God's Vision, Joining Jesus' Mission

It is common for organizations to clearly state their clear vision and mission. As a presbytery we believe that God has given us a vision and Jesus has set the mission of the church in motion.

God's vision isn't something we need to dream up; it's been clear from the beginning of time. The scriptures tell us about a Creator who loves the world so much that God refuses to leave it broken. Even the Book of Order reminds us that God's vision is nothing less than the transformation of all creation—a world made whole, where justice rolls like rivers, peace covers the earth like the waters, and love is the law of the land.

God's vision of reconciliation, justice, healing and renewal is bold. It's comprehensive. And it's already unfolding through the power of the Spirit.

If God's vision is the big picture, then Jesus' mission is the way that vision becomes reality. When Jesus began His public ministry, he didn't waste time explaining what he was about. He went straight to the synagogue, opened the scroll of Isaiah, and declared:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

The beauty of Jesus' mission is that it's not just his—it's ours, too. When we say "yes" to following Jesus, we're saying "yes" to...

- Proclaiming Good News: Announcing the nearness of God's kingdom, where everyone has a seat at the table.
- Healing the Broken: Not just physical healing, but emotional, relational, and systemic restoration.
- Liberating the Oppressed: Dismantling the systems that hold people captive and replacing them with communities of justice and equity.
- Forming Disciples: Calling people into a way of life that reflects God's love and justice.

As the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey, we opted not to create our own vision or mission. Instead, we ask: What does it look like to live out God's vision and participate in Jesus' mission in Northeast New Jersey?

This is where our purpose and priorities come into play. Our purpose is straightforward and Spirit-filled.

**The presbytery has been called by God and organized to match resources to needs, so that our members can serve the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their communities.**

Our priorities help us focus this work. We've discerned four key areas:

1. **Healthy Congregational Leadership** - Leadership matters. Thriving congregations require pastors, elders, deacons, and trustees—who are spiritually grounded, emotionally healthy, and well-equipped for ministry. Our presbytery must be committed to nurturing, supporting, and equipping leaders for the challenges of today's church.
2. **Congregational and Community Partnerships** - The church doesn't exist in isolation, and neither do we as a presbytery. God calls us into partnership—within our churches, between our churches, and with the wider community. Together, we can share resources, amplify our impact, and reflect the diversity of God's kingdom.
3. **Experimenting with New Expressions of Being Church** - We recognize that the world is changing, and the church must adapt to remain a faithful witness. This means stepping out in faith, trying new things, and seeking new ways to be church—especially as we work to become a more inclusive, multicultural, and intergenerational community of faith.
4. **Using Our Collective Voice to Create Systemic Change** - As followers of Jesus, we're not just called to charity; we're called to justice. This means advocating for systemic change—addressing the root causes of poverty, racism, and inequality, and speaking out for those who have been silenced.

The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey is called to embrace the vision, join the mission, and live out our purpose with faith, hope, and love, knowing that the God who began this good work will bring it to completion.

Adopted: December 10, 2024

Amended: