

Presbytery of New Brunswick

Central Leadership Team Discussion Guide & FAQs For NJMC Proposal

October 13, 2020

..[S]peaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

- Ephesians 4:15 NRSV

FOR SESSION: NJMC PROPOSAL DISCUSSION GUIDE *Please discuss these questions together as you prepare for the November vote and its outcome.*

1. Why are you in favor or not in favor of the Proposal?
2. What do you hope the future of your presbytery will look like?
3. If we adopt the NJMC Proposal, what will be required of us to move faithfully into the future together?
4. If we do not adopt the Proposal, what will be required of us to move faithfully into the future together?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE CLT - *please email any additional questions to nbpleaders@gmail.com. They will be answered before the November presbytery meeting.*

1. **Why is NBP moving to hire new staff now if this change [NJMC Proposal] is on the horizon?** Should the Proposal be adopted, it will take time for the new presbyteries to be up and running. In the meantime, the presbytery will need to continue to serve its purpose in the life of our congregations and minister members. In order to continue to “fly the plane” while a new one is being built, staff is needed. They will be temporary staff, and will be hired with that understanding. They will help us get from here to there. Should the Proposal not be adopted, we will need to continue our work and will need staff to assist us in that work.
2. **Why did PNB continue to focus on Matthew 25 and Vital Congregations when we knew the structure change [NJMC Proposal] was coming?** In early 2019 the CLT determined it would focus its energies in those areas which were necessary and relevant to support congregations, regardless of any future change in presbytery structure. With the November 2019 PNB action-- that PNB “agree[d] to participate in” the process around new presbytery boundaries--it was clear PNB was not ready to move forward with a commitment to restructuring, and so the CLT reaffirmed its earlier determination. Realizing that any such

process would unfold over several years, the CLT understood the immediate need for support of our congregations' ongoing transitions and transformation. The Matthew 25 and the Vital Congregations Initiatives were seen as important vehicles to advance the aspirational goals of the Invitation at the congregational level, constructively and usefully serving to strengthen congregations, whether they would ultimately be a part of PNB or a newly created presbytery.