

Mission Study
North Central Iowa Presbytery

“When your congregation begins to think about the abundance of Spiritual gifts and about God’s overwhelming generosity to you – that is when you stop thinking small about yourself and your congregation.” -- *The Great Permission*

These are questions to reflect upon. They can be answered by the Session, the PNC or a Mission Study or a Transition Committee. In addition, you may ask as many people in your congregation as possible to give thought and answer to them.

Cautions: Avoid endless discussion – discussion can stop at ideas and ideals. Stay away from endlessly defining terms. Do not stray from the subject. Remember the value of good ideas. Thank those who participate.

1. Reflect on your entire time at _____ Presbyterian Church. Remember a time when you felt most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement. Describe the circumstances and your involvement. Who was involved? How did it feel? What was happening?
2. Don’t be humble—this is important information: What are the most valuable ways you contribute to our church – your personality, your perspectives, your skills, your activities?
3. What are the most important things our church has contributed to your life? Who or what made a difference? How did it affect you?
4. What have been the most important spiritual experiences, lessons in belief, or steps of faith that have occurred for you at our church? Describe what and how they happened. What was most helpful?
5. What are the essential, central characteristics or ways of life that made our church unique? What is most important about our church?
6. Make three wishes for the future of our church.

Highly Recommended for all churches

A small book “The Great Permission” Price \$6.00 from Augsburg (ELCA) A condensed version of an Alban Institute book.

A SCAMP study. It takes only about one hour to do. This is a statistical study which will give sessions and congregations an idea of the time required from a pastor each week. This is a painless way to begin discussions such as “can we afford a full time pastor?” A COM member will assist you.

Other Methods Available

Other studies and congregational surveys are available if requested.