

Task Force Process:

5. From that survey, we talked about our “current state.” Who is PDP now?
 - a. Many were unsure of what it meant to be Presbyterian.
 - b. Most didn’t know what the Presbytery did except when things went wrong.
 - c. They did not hear about what happened at presbytery meetings; they may have heard that there were meetings held.
 - d. All spoke of those things they like about their church and local mission.
 - e. More than a few worried about our financial future for themselves and the Presbytery.

Task Force Process:

6. We asked, “What would you like help with?” and “What would you want from the presbytery for your church’s future?” -- Future State.
 - a. All kinds of creative ideas came forth.
 - b. Most fell under three distinct umbrellas. We decided to emphasize a few things and aim to do them very well.
 - i. Cultivate pastors for empty pulpits, Elder training, creative worship
 - ii. Help with technology
 - iii. More mission opportunities
7. Nothing more complicated than this. The voices that came forth were amazingly similar.

Financial Snapshot:

1. Our balance sheet today has a value of \$2.1 M. We have cash flow. We have assessable investments of \$1.2 M if we need them. The remainder are restricted funds.
2. But we have a decades-long issue of “kicking the can down the street” regarding our red or negative budgets. Mission giving has been close to the goal each year.
3. If we do not change this pattern, we may not have cash flow in harder times.
Drawdown from our investments prevents our asset value from growing.
4. Our asset value has consistently hovered around \$1.9 M to \$ 2.1 M even with negative budgets over the last seven years and longer.

Financial Snapshot:

5. Our cash flow, apart from investments, has come from four areas: church giving, special gifts, the sale of closed church buildings, and market gains on our investments. The church building sales have generally been troubled assets that almost cost more than they gave—a mixed blessing.
6. This has been heavily discussed each year with the Resources Ministry Team and voted on at each presbytery meeting with the phrase “kick the can down the road.”
7. This task force began with a vote of the presbytery to not kick the can down the road any longer and address the issue.
8. The glass is half full, and we can do better.

Epiphanies from surveys and follow-up conversations:

Several churches have forgotten to give; they thought they were giving all along.

One church had thought they had been giving consistently to the presbytery but had not for decades.

A few had stopped giving to punish the GA for some of their votes.

Many had given, but they just now are understanding that the presbytery is a pass-through; their gifts had been for special offerings or per-capita to the GA.

Many said the need to help the presbytery had not made its way from the presbytery meeting and the commissioner to the church and the Session, or from one class of elders to the next.

Might You Help?

How can YOU help in a small—medium—large way?

Can you or a member put your name on a scholarship?

Can you help small churches with a microphone?

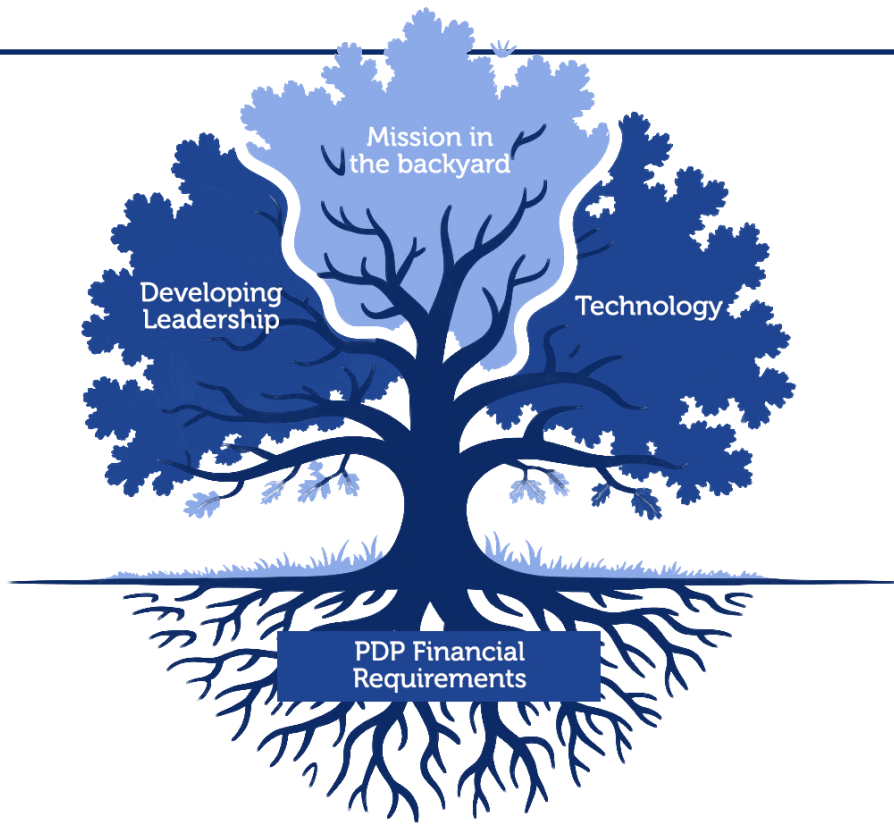
Can you increase your church's monthly tithes that help pay the presbytery's electric bill?

Are you called to start a "Laundry Love" at your church?

What small thing can you do similarly? How might the Spirit imagine and lead you?

Verify your financial help to the presbytery? Many churches forget this.

Come to PDP's two meetings – worship with us.



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