

A PROPOSAL FOR THE LOCAL NETWORK OF EVANGELICAL PCUSA CHURCHES

I. WORSHIP – *we will most easily find true unity as together we worship the triune God and hear and respond to the inspired and authoritative Word of God in scripture.*

Proposed: Summer Worship Event

- ❑ One church could host, one provide music, one provide preacher (or use a retired local preacher)
- ❑ Consider adding several lay testimonies from various churches and a sermon by one of the pastors
- ❑ Maybe plan for a 90 min. service with some food/fellowship time before or after
- ❑ A combined choir might aid congregational participation
- ❑ Combining with a training event (II below) might also help attendance

Other worship ideas:

- ❑ Pulpit exchanges between evangelical churches in the presbytery
- ❑ Choir exchanges between churches

II. DISCIPLESHIP - *Share resources to train church leaders.*

Proposed: Fall Training Event for Church Officers (and teachers?)

- ❑ Perhaps a keynote with worship, and
- ❑ Seminar format topical sessions, perhaps repeating 2-3 times so each officer could attend more than one
- ❑ Pool and create shared training resources and/or bring in outside evangelical resources/trainers (e.g. PFR's "Officer Training")

Other discipleship ideas:

- ❑ Lay renewal weekends (teams of laypeople lead a weekend of worship, testimony, and small group reflection; e.g. PFR "Congregational Renewal Event"; PRMI "Spirit Alive"; Knox Fellowship event)
- ❑ Combined men's conference/women's conference (themed or otherwise)

III. MINISTRY – *we begin with worship and discipleship with a view of moving toward area ministry and mission together. The ideas below are just the beginning of the possibilities!*

Possibilities:

- ❑ Latino ministry
- ❑ Compare notes on local ministries and benevolences and begin to partner around shared ministry commitments
- ❑ Combine resources: the sum-is-greater-than-the-parts principle

IV. MISSION – *there is such potential in teaming together to support missions!*

Possibilities:

- ❑ Could we identify common missionaries and maybe a group of sister churches and do our own partnership?
- ❑ Combined mission trips together (youth, adults, families)
- ❑ If we find common missionaries, we could begin to "host" returning missionaries or have a local-area missions conference.
- ❑ We could provide training and equipping for churches to begin to develop ministry models that communicate into the post-modern culture
- ❑ Plant a new church together! (... the "store front" model rather than the spend-a-million-bucks model). If 5 churches trained and sent 20 people each, the "loss" of core people to each church would be less and a new church could be "seeded" with 100 committed, called, and trained people. We could share the cost of the church planter, who could serve each of our churches part-time and begin the training of those who would seed the new church, etc....