

An Introduction to the Mission Assessment Process

Once Session has selected the Mission Assessment Team and a Chair / Convener, they will likely need to authorize **funds** to be used by the Mission Study Team to cover such expenses as:

- Purchase of resources, study aids, etc.
- Information gathering tasks
- Acquiring demographic data – ask Presbytery for MissionInsite data
- Meeting expenses

The amount should be enough to cover costs for the overall work of the team. A sum of approximately \$500 to \$1000 is average.

Look for the arrival by email of two documents. "**Overview of a Congregation's Mission Assessment Process**" is a quick introductory summary of what to expect and some tips on how to proceed. Also coming is "**A Mission Assessment Guide.**" This offers a 7-Part process for guiding the MAT through a thorough review of WPC's current status. It culminates in the writing of a **Mission Action Plan (MAP)** that will inform and guide the Session into the future.

Skipping ahead, after the Mission Assessment process is complete and a report is prepared, Session has the following responsibilities:

When the report (or **Mission Action Plan – MAP**) is in final draft form, the team submits it to the Session for review.

- In order to gain ownership of the Mission Action Plan (MAP) by the congregation, they should have the opportunity to read and respond to the report before adoption. This will guide the congregation as it moves the newly-focused mission forward.
- Session may make any final revisions and adopt the Mission Action Plan (MAP).
- Once Session adopts the Mission Assessment Plan, Session requests the Mission Assessment Team draft a cover letter and submit the Mission Action Plan (MAP) to the Presbytery for review, commentary, and approval.

Once Session is informed by Presbytery that the Mission Action Plan (MAP) has been approved, Session should acknowledge the work of the Mission Assessment Team and dismiss the team with an official motion and vote that is recorded in the Session minutes.

Session Summary

Before the Mission Assessment Process Session should:

- ___ Complete the exit interview (in the case of a pastoral vacancy)
- ___ Notify Presbytery of its intent to assess the congregation's mission
- ___ Appoint a Mission Assessment Team
- ___ Appoint the chair of the Mission Assessment Team

Provide financial support and ongoing encouragement

After the Mission Assessment Process Session should:

- Review and Adopt the Mission Action Plan (MAP)
- Involve the Congregation in understanding the Mission Action Plan
- Thank and Dismiss the Mission Assessment Team
- Begin to implement aspects of the Mission Action Plan
- Appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Again, please let me or other presbytery leadership know of your questions or concerns.

We want you to succeed and we are praying with you as you continue to discern God's leading as you form the next steps for your congregation.

With you in ministry,
Rob Stewart
Coordinator for Vital Congregations
vci@riversidepresbytery.com
760.534.5165