

North Presbyterian Church
Williamsville, NY
March 16-17, 2012

Visioning Retreat

The Power of *Why*

The Power of *Why*

Sometimes anxiety increases because we...

- Have clarity of *what*
- Search for clarity of *how*
- Are lost when it comes to *why*

The *WHY* of the Church

Why do we do what we do?

A question for reflection and
discussion in small groups

Large Group Discussion

Why do we do what we do?

The Relation of *Why* to Vision

An example:
discipleship—go

A Look at Changing Contexts for Ministry:

- In the congregation
- In the community
- In the region
- In the nation
- Around the globe

In Small Groups

- What are 3-5 of the most significant changes that you have observed?
 - What excites you most as you think about the future?
 - What concerns you most as you think about the future?
- How do you connect these changes—and your excitements and concerns—to the question and answer of *why*?

Large Group Discussion

- Highlights from the group conversations
- Identification of points of relevance for
 - the congregation and
 - its ministry

The Relation of *Why* to Vision

- The power of why / The power of vision
- *Where there is no vision...*

Impediments to Vision / Why

We are not clear what we mean by “vision.”

Impediments to Vision / Why

Who should take the first step?

Impediments to Vision / Why

What is the purpose of congregational participation in casting a vision?

Impediments to Vision / Why

How much ownership
the congregation has
in the vision

Impediments to Vision / Why

To what degree the vision
should relate to the past?

Impediments to Vision / Why

The power of unresolved grief

Impediments to Vision / Why

The envisioned pace of change

Impediments to Vision / Why

Pressure to guarantee the perfect vision

Impediments to Vision / Why

The impossibility of an all-inclusive vision

Impediments to Vision / Why

An uninspiring vision

In the Large Group

What potential impediments
do you see—or foresee—
in a visioning process?

How might you counter these?

The Role of Leaders

- The *why* as a key thread
- Clarifying the *why* in relation to changes, losses, attachments, grieving, attaching anew
- Understanding the relation of *why* to vision
- Connecting the *why* and the vision to context
- Anticipating the impediments to vision / the *why*
- Countering these impediments

In Small Groups

A catalyst for conversation

The State of the Congregation

- Assets
- Existing and emerging needs
- Sources of energy and hope
- Sources of concern and anxiety

Checking In...

In Small Groups

A catalyst for conversation

The State of the Congregation

- Why do you do what you do?
- How does this why...
 - Become your most important asset?
 - Relate to existing and emerging needs?
 - Increase sources of energy and hope?
 - Diminish sources of concern and anxiety?

Checking In...

Building Upon the Why

The golden circle

- Why—purpose, cause, belief, vision—why should anyone care
- People don't "buy" what you do—they "buy" why you do it.
- How—do we build upon this *why*?
- What—do we build upon this *why*?

Building Upon the Why

The golden circle

- How—do we build upon this *why*?
- What—do we build upon this *why*?

In Small Groups

Assuming you are clear about the “why,”
what do you want to do
in relation to a visioning process?

Large Group Discussion
