

Appendix 2

2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM CONVERSATION NOTES Open Invitation Potluck 04-30-16 Group #1

Who are we?

Conservative 50 and older congregation

Very traditional church

Very welcoming church

Friendly & Loving

We are a praying church.

We are a Bible teaching church.

Where are we?

At a standstill

At a crossroads

Enos Park

Mixed community of races and economic classes

Most members are retired

We does God want us to go?

Reach out to all his people

God has a plan for us. We have to find out what that reason is.

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Open Invitation Potluck 04-30-16
Group #2**

Who are we?

Moderate to conservative church
Bible-based sermons
Predominantly older church
Predominantly white church
Recent people of different color joining
Same as we were 20, 30, 40 years ago, but less of us
No longer a neighborhood church
Set in our ways
A loving, caring group
In ourselves, self-absorbed
Not everyone is very welcoming
No longer a family church
No longer a multi-generational church

Where are we?

North 7th St.
Moderate/Conservative
We greet the same people each week
Need to go and meet new people
Are we for real, or nosy?
Children's Library
Thursday Meet & Eat
Support Food Pantry
Visit shut-ins & hospitals
Visit and be involved with the Presbyterian Home
COMPASS
Gotta Dance

We does God want us to go?

Open doors wide to everyone and show love
Facebook page
Church web page
Outside neighborhood
In the neighborhood
Personal invitation to co-workers, family, friends
Advertise in newspaper
God – love God above all
Illinois Times

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Open Invitation Potluck 04-30-16
Group #3**

Who are we?

God's people
An elderly church
Presbyterians
Family – come from different backgrounds
Still learning – under construction
Friendly, welcoming, willing
More unwilling to change than willing

Who is God calling us to be?

Witnesses
Fishers of men
Teachers
Leaders
Encouragers
Accepting
Welcoming
Light of the world
Inspirers
Motivators
Nonjudgmental
Non-prejudiced
Cooperative
Volunteers
Loving
Forgiving
Accountable

We does God want us to go?

Forward
Where he leads
To the community
Upward & Onward
Developing & Evolving
Where the people are
Door to Door
Be Involved

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Session Meeting 05-17-16**

What does God have in store for our church?

Time of discernment – Mission study is time for this.

We need to reach out.

We are too comfortable.

God wants us to be here another 150+ years. –exist? in this building? in this neighborhood?

We are getting into the neighborhood more.

We need to revitalize with the neighborhood.

Fulfill need of neighborhood youth

Can we change as a congregation?

We can, but will we?

It's hard to bring everyone along.

We might lose some people.

We need to focus on the positives.

We need lots of communication.

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

We need to “turn up the heat slowly,” i.e. make changes at a slow pace.

We have to get the church to buy into the change.

People need to know why we need to change.

We have to keep in mind cultural, racial, ethnic change.

Education on how to change would be good.

Are you personally willing to change?

Are we telling or asking people to change?

It depends on what the change is.

People need to know the plan forward after the change.

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

It takes commitment to change.

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Trustees Meeting 06-14-16**

What does God have in store for our church?

Just not sure...

Continue to spread the word and do God's work

- Need new ways to reach out and build congregation
- Bring in youth

Change is going to happen

Use building as the center of the neighborhood

Cautious financial times

Can we change as a congregation?

We have to!

Yes – be sure to communicate!

There will be resistance.

- Some may leave – maybe for a while

This congregation is a comfort zone for people

- Have seen some becoming more relaxed, e.g. about new music, unfamiliar hymns
- Maybe we need to pay for some outreach information/program

Change from what to what?

- More aggressive outreach
- Neighborhood church

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

Some worship changes, e.g. order, music

Acceptance with some reluctance

Racial, cultural diversity

OK with female or person of color as next pastor?

Opening church to the community

Are you personally willing to change?

“Coming here helped me change.”

If “they” are still here, they’re willing to change.

“Change” is why we’re here!

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

Yes

Stewardship – annual pledge campaign, planned giving, need for new money

Everybody needs to work together

What one change can you think of that you'd make?

More people involved, not just Sundays
Need people will to lead, not just follow
More education opportunities

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Deacons Meeting 06-28-16**

How do you envision Third Presbyterian in 5 – 10 years?

Another type of worship experience
Youth minister
Regular advertising/outreach
Focus on North End
Larger number of children
Inviting friends
Topical preaching
Congregation working with Pastor

Can we change as a congregation?

No – People won't change
We have to
Use resources together
Change by steps
Communicate
Sometimes you just have to
If we present alternatives, i.e. multiple options

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

Pastor of a different race/gender
More youth involvement in areas of the church – worship, committees, etc.
Pretty much anything, needs to be within Biblical beliefs, Presbyterian system, and church's agreed values.
Changing techniques
People to be more open-minded and accepting of people around us.

Are you personally willing to change?

Yes, if it's for the good of the church

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

Yes – people understand that can mean programs, physical plant, financial and techniques

Pray for:

Open Minds – Openness to others/diversity, openness to new ways, creative thinking
Generous Heart – Invite people, welcome people, support people, support the church
Willing Spirits – Willing to do the work necessary, willing to lead, not just follow

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
ACTS & Small Group Sunday School Classes 07-24-16**

How do you envision Third Presbyterian in 5 – 10 years?

- ✓ Strong and more people
- ✓ Young people with kids
- ✓ Programs for kids
- ✓ More congregation participation in activities, missions, etc.
- ✓ Reach “mixturing” including resources
- ✓ Neighborhood outreach
- ✓ Recreation opportunities
- ✓ Young youth leaders
- ✓ Strong pastoral presence
 - Presbyterian resources from Louisville, Kentucky

Can we change as a congregation?

- ✓ Yes we can
- ✓ We have to
- ✓ Open to other cultural racial/ethnic, etc. worship
 - Intentionally work at this
 - Bring and accept new youth
- ✓ Use facilities creatively
- ✓ Different worship experiences
- ✓ We’ll lose some members and gain others

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

- ✓ Hard for some
- ✓ Northend is different and we need to be aware
- ✓ Not so quick to judge
- ✓ Need to remember age differences
- ✓ Hire a “couple”

What do you think of a black or female pastor?

- ✓ If it is the correct fit for our church, yes.
- ✓ Good sermons and can preach the word of the Lord
- ✓ Gifted

Are you personally willing to change?

- ✓ Yes, if we don’t we will no longer have a church
- ✓ Some changes will be easier than others
- ✓ We need communication!!!! Lots of it!!!!

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

- ✓ Go out into the community
- ✓ Willing to lead
- ✓ Be aware of spiritual gifts, talents, skills, and abilities of members
 - Follow-up with those that volunteer
 - Offer verbal invitations as well as invitations from the pulpit
- ✓ Stewardship – Giving \$\$\$\$\$
 - Let members know there is a need
 - Campaign for the need to raise funds

Pray for:

Open Minds – openness to others/diversity, openness to new ways, creative thinking

Generous Hearts – Invite people, welcome people, support people, and support the church

Willing Spirits – Willing to do the work necessary, willing to lead, not just follow

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
LLL Classes 07-31-16**

How do you envision Third Presbyterian in 5 – 10 years?

- ✓ A lot of changes
- ✓ Increased involvement in the neighborhood and other churches
 - Getting to know neighbors
 - missions
- ✓ Recreation opportunities for young people
- ✓ Open to all races, loving all, ages
- ✓ Full, vibrant, lively
- ✓ Increased number of people involved
- ✓ Strengthen Sunday school classes

Can we change as a congregation?

- ✓ We will change because things will change
- ✓ Don't get lost in the hype
- ✓ Be open; let Christ lead us
- ✓ Communication!!!! Why is it good for the church??
- ✓ Accepting, forgiving, and giving
- ✓ Open to diversity; welcome all

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

- ✓ Bible based – loving God, love neighbors
- ✓ Other views and work together
- ✓ Christ in our hearts
- ✓ Not prejudiced, equality, personality
- ✓ Gay issues will be more present

What do you think of a black or female pastor?

- ✓ African American / Female pastor – out of our whelm of experiences
 - Age 30-40 years
 - Christ in heart
 - Live what you preach – walk the walk
 - Women not favored; voice and presentation

Are you personally willing to change?

- ✓ Yes, for the better of the church
- ✓ Yes, but keep it bible based
- ✓ In order for the church to survive; we have to be willing
- ✓ Demographics – Context
 - Can't compete for people like other large churches
 - People are starving for relationships

What do you think of drums?

- ✓ Yes, as long as you can hear to words.
- ✓ All instruments are welcome to honor God
- ✓ Music is a wonderful worship
- ✓

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

- ✓ Well-coordinated
- ✓ We need leaders as well as followers
- ✓ Extend personal invitations to participate
- ✓ Follow through
- ✓ Positive attitude
- ✓ Stewardship – Giving \$\$\$\$\$
 - Let members know there is a need

“Adults need the youth for their energy. Youth need adults for their wisdom”

Pray for:

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**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Choir 08-18-16**

How do you envision Third Presbyterian in 5 – 10 years?

Bleak – Discouraged

More Sunday school classes with options, especially for all ages, some short-term 6-8 weeks.

Full pews of all ages

Married couples Sunday school classes

Can we change as a congregation?

Yes, if we work together.

There can't be factions.

Need willingness. It's not going to be the same.

It's going to be hard work.

Need to compromise.

Younger members need to take the bull by the horns.

Some have insight, others have energy

Teach the teachers, i.e. teach people how to lead, what needs to be done in programs, etc.

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

Have to be willing to accept and welcome those around us in the neighborhood.

Can we accept a person of color and/or female pastor?

People will come and go no matter who is called.

Are you personally willing to change?

Yes, we all better do some changing!

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

Yes, in order to move forward

Need leadership to set the plan

Need better division of labor

Cannot do it by oneself!

Communication is needed!

Pray for:

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**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Enos Park Association 09-05-16**

What is your knowledge and impression of the Third Presbyterian Church?

- ✓ Community Center – activity center for the neighborhood.
- ✓ The church members appreciate NCCL and COMPASS.
- ✓ Acknowledged 3rd Pres. doors are open to anyone on Thursday night *Meet and Greet* dinners.
- ✓ Neighbors look at the church as a “historic” place that shaped the neighborhood.
- ✓ The board members are experiencing changes in 3rd Pres. Church.
- ✓ Knows 3rd Pres member population is “older”.
- ✓ Harder to maintain connection in the Enos Park neighborhood because most members are no longer from the local area.
- ✓ 3rd Pres. is a safe haven of goodness and likes living close to the church.
- ✓ 3rd Pres. was the hub of the community.

How can 3rd Pres be more involved in the neighborhood?

- ✓ The members of the committee wonder “what goes on for our Sunday morning” services
- ✓ Communicate more about special types of services and events. Some examples below:
 - Kumler invited neighborhood people in for a gospel concert/music.
 - Flyers/door hangers: distribute to the neighbors for special occasions
 - Provide flyers to the *Neighborhood Association* to be placed in the “Welcome” package given to each new household joining for the Enos Park neighborhood.
 - EPNA will provide a 3rd Pres. connect name(s) of new families/individuals so that 3rd Pres. Church members can personally welcome and invite people to the neighborhood and church.
- ✓ Partner with other groups to rehabilitate houses in the neighborhood.
- ✓ Volunteer to work in the community garden
- ✓ Support/Create a ministry house in the Enos Park neighborhood.
- ✓ Have an ex-officio 3rd Pres. member attend EPNA meetings.
- ✓ Share EPNA information with the congregation.
- ✓ Joint ministry services in the park.

How can 3rd Pres. be a better neighbor?

- ✓ Get to know neighborhood – getting to know the people.
- ✓ Ask how we can pray for your – share hospitality.
- ✓ Going out into the neighborhood – giving “something” not seeking to “get” something in return.
 - Give a direct invite to the library children to attend our church service and Sunday school. Provide a two week advance notice.
 - Set up special opportunities for neighborhood kids and communicate these opportunities.
 - Sunday breakfast before church. Feeding people is a big problem.
 - Community led VBS; partner with churches and organizations.
 -

What will help draw families to the church?

- ✓ Food and service (Sunday breakfast)
- ✓ Church doesn't reflect demographics of ENP. How can we change this?
- ✓ Special Service for Enos Park neighbors
- ✓ Church takes moral stand for what is happening in Enos Park.
- ✓ Somehow bridge the gap between current cultures. This requires grace, compassion, patience, and a long commitment. This will take time and is ongoing.
- ✓ Need to develop openness and welcome people.
- ✓ Racism awareness
- ✓ Invite individuals to a private room or fellowship and give them a special welcome.
- ✓ Hold a "Bridge the Gap" service and invite the neighborhood.

**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Lunch Meeting 09-18-16
Group #1**

How do you envision Third Presbyterian in 5 – 10 years?

The way it's going, it could be dead.

Recruit younger people

We need a youth minister in addition to a new pastor, to reach & recruit youth

Young families

Must all work to the common good

No church politics – all equal under Christ

Love each other – no small cliques

Diversify and offer more Bible study classes

Meet & Eat – not many church members attended, needs more Christian focus

Can we change as a congregation?

We need to welcome people more.

Be more friendly

Be more open to all races

We accept any new pastor of any race or sex as long as they are outgoing and interesting

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

We must accept doing this a little different.

Maybe we need two services – 1 traditional, 1 contemporary

More open minded as Christians

Are you personally willing to change?

Mostly yes

Needs to be baby steps

People are willing to change, but may not be willing to accept the changes we need.

We feel that older people and all of us expect certain things – structure.

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

Need to send cards or thank you notes to people who come

Smile and say hello

Drop by a new person's home with cookies to say thank you

Be more open as a building

Some people would like to see more things here at church in the evenings, but are afraid. Need to look into security on those evenings.

Pray for:

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**2016 MISSION STUDY TEAM
CONVERSATION NOTES
Lunch Meeting 09-18-16
Group #2**

How do you envision Third Presbyterian in 5 – 10 years?

Keeping working much the same

Better financial situation

Re-activating inactive members

Youth minister – proactive with youth

More Sunday School and a focus on Christian Education

Communicating the needs

Communicating what we have, especially Sunday School

People working together on things

Sunday School classes supporting the church in different ways

Continue in what we believe and stand for

Leadership sets the tone, understands and appreciates our history, tradition, values and uses these to reach out

People participating

Attracting young families

Can we change as a congregation?

Don't have to change values

Change can be in techniques and ways of doing things

What can we accept in a changed Third Presbyterian?

Keep traditional service

More neighborhood involvement

Be safe

Don't exclude other areas of the city

Be welcoming

Accept a new pastor who is a person of color or female?

- Female would be difficult
- Person of color might change the congregation
- Needs to be Caucasian
- Needs to speak English understandably

Are you personally willing to change?

Communicate “philosophy”/goals/vision/purpose for change

Get people on board to work together

Agree to disagree

Is forgiveness needed in places?

Yes on some things

Accept that change has to happen

Communicate and help people with change

Are you willing to do the work necessary to sustain Third Presbyterian?

Yes – Aske people to get involved

Am I comfortable doing what I'm asked?

Don't burn people out!

Partner people up in work to be done, e.g. experienced person mentor new person

Utilize people's talents/skills/spiritual gifts

This is an opportunity for a program of renewal

Respect people

Tell folks what's needed/available

Support & train volunteers

Accept help!!

Pray for:

Open Minds – Openness to others/diversity, openness to new ways, creative thinking

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