

Draft of the Recommendation

The 2020 Vision Team, as mandated by 222nd General Assembly (2016), recommends to the 224th General Assembly (2020):

- 1) Approve the 2020 Guiding Statement to the Church in its entirety for use by and for the church until a time in which the church deems it prudent to form a new guiding statement.

The Guiding Statement

Our Reformed heritage understands the power of words and we humbly offer this Guiding Statement as speaking truth and declaring life.

The 2020 Vision Team was mandated by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and charged with developing a guiding statement for the denomination as it moves into the future.

In the faithful desire to discern the will of God we listened throughout the denomination and beyond, hearing hope and frustration, expectation and anxiety. Along our journey even when it is hard to see the way forward, God has spoken and continues to speak to us in these times and places.

Therefore, God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be:

Prayerful

- Confessing our sin to God and those we have wronged; we accept our responsibility for the brokenness in the world and in ourselves. In Christ we are assured of forgiveness and freed to forgive others.
- We ask the Holy Spirit to direct and guide us as we actively listen to Scripture and fully engage in the joys and challenges of life in this present world.

- By grace Christ binds us together, cleanses us in the waters of baptism, nourishes us at the Lord's table, and sends us out to share the Good News.

Courageous

- Reformed and always being reformed, we follow the Holy Spirit in new and imaginative ways to places we have not yet been.
- We foster the hope of reconciliation in Christ who transforms the world through healing individuals and communities.
- We work for God's justice and peace for all people in every land, walking with the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the abused.

United

- As members of the Church universal, we are Christ's disciples, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Against forces that seek to divide, Christ compels us to bear witness to a love that connects communities across great differences.
- We approach others in a spirit of openness and trust as we follow Jesus Christ in respecting the freedom of other religions, worldviews, and traditions.

Serving

- Gratefully following the One who washed his disciples' feet, we listen to our neighbors, working to meet their practical needs.
- We partner with others to become the hands and feet of God in the world, showing compassion and generosity to all creation.
- The Holy Spirit pushes us beyond the familiar, meeting people where they are as we share Christ's transformative love.

Alive

- We are people of the resurrection: though death surrounds us, we are not afraid because we follow the One who was raised from the tomb.
- The Holy Spirit gives us courage to build a community that reflects the fullness of God's image in humanity: beautifully diverse in age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexuality, physical and mental ability, geography, and theological conviction.
- In the sure and certain hope of resurrection, we joyfully testify that the Church and its members are called to follow Christ's model by risking all, even life itself, for the sake of the Gospel.

And so, God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be: Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive. Thanks be to God.

- 2) Commend this Guiding Statement and attached resources to the agencies of the PC(USA) (Board of Pensions, Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation), its mid-councils, seminaries, congregations, and individuals study, engage in conversation, and reflection using this 2020 Guiding Statement for the purpose of vision, spiritual growth, and formation of the PC(USA). Mandate

the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation develop curriculum with a focus on the guiding statement.

- 3) That the Moderator(s) of 224th General Assembly appoint an Implementation Team to introduce this Guiding Statement and to integrate it into the life of the denomination; to proclaim and celebrate the transformative stories of those who engage intentionally with this Guiding Statement. In reflecting the spirit of the mandate given to the vision team by the 222nd GA, the assembly shall allocate sufficient resources for the Implementation Team to effectively accomplish its work.

- 4) That the 227th General Assembly (2026) consider forming a 2030 Vision Team to explore a new Guiding Statement for the denomination that will help us name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future decade.