

## **DISTRICT 1 MEETING - JANUARY 22, 2018**

### **(1) What are some of my congregation's strengths? What do we do well?**

Veteran's support  
Boy Scouts  
Christmas shows/concerts  
food bank  
gym  
crisis fund  
Blessing of Bikes  
Men's Breakfast Club  
funeral dinners  
Christmas and Easter cantata  
Deacon's pantry  
parish nurse  
Casserole Care  
Quest (VBS monthly)  
communion to shut-ins  
preschool  
mission trips  
VBS  
Mother/Daughter  
Salt of the Earth (chemo patients)  
Bible study  
Prayer shawl, blanket, quilt  
Messy Church  
Picnic in the Park  
Pot Love monthly dinners

Grace:       work together  
                  outreach  
                  caring/loving  
                  free meals twice a month  
                  Committees

Mt. Zion:    Veterans  
                  local mission  
                  Adult Sunday School

Concord:     mission  
                  food pantry - community  
                  card ministry

Tidal            cross-denominational mission  
                  prayer chain  
                  VBS, Easter, Christmas  
                  Bible Study w/ Presbyterian Churches  
                  Hugs Meals on Wheels  
                  Fellowship (Apple butter)  
                  outdoor worship for community

Cowansville:        Music  
                          Not afraid to try new ideas  
                          great helpers  
                          good at developing leaders  
                          thriving men's group

Slate Lick:        Care for members  
                          good at maintaining budget  
                          Youth Elder

Freeport:        good nucleus  
                          fellowship  
                          Children's Sunday School program

Srader Grove:        Men's breakfast group  
                          Youth programs

Faith:            welcome diversity  
                          spend faithfully

**(2) Over the next 5-10 years, what are some of the challenges we will be facing?**

aging faithful servants  
lack of new members = \$ challenge  
no youth - how to entice them  
Church not important  
fractures at PCUSA trickling down to individual Churches  
getting a new minister  
building attachment; fear of losing identity  
format of what we do  
lack of commitment  
lack of attractive worship - authentic relationships  
means of communicating between churches

availability of ministers  
loss of young adults  
sustaining full-time clergy  
stability  
shrinking resources  
“I’ve done my time” attitude  
how to adapt  
forms of worship  
music  
technological advances  
aging buildings  
Shrinking tax base  
no organist  
no choir  
new forms of ministry  
asset distribution conflict

**(3) We all have skills and talents. Are there any resources you would be willing to share with the congregations around you?**

sheet music  
VBS materials  
Lenten prayer calendar  
planning disaster recovery trips  
consult on combining congregations  
visiting choir  
dinner theater  
golf tournament  
train show  
text for the day  
turkey dinner  
Amazon smile  
gym

G:     model for free meals  
       VBS supplies/decorations  
       community Lenten lunches model

T:     prayer chain  
       preaching  
       Bible study  
       safety planning

Freeport & Srader Grove: youth programs  
VBS

Cowansville: visitation training

Would help if specific needs were known

**(4) On the other side of the coin, what help and encouragement would you welcome from your neighboring churches?**

Swap inactive/low attendance files  
fundraising ideas  
federated churches  
live streaming when preacher unavailable  
ministry partnerships  
area ministry  
worship schedules/options  
focus on adult Christian education  
combine resources  
need financial book help  
cleaning services  
purchasing agreements  
preaching  
Facebook, webpages, technology communication assistance  
midweek service w/ food - perhaps not traditional service  
we need to join together

**(5) Is there anything that we should know which would be helpful to all the Churches?**

A communication board was created at Facebook: Armstrong County Presbyterian Discussions

All should know that they "are not the only one" .....dealing with these difficulties