



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 1. Introduction

**The world is changing, and so too is our presbytery. As we live in the confidence that God is leading, we are considering anew our purpose and the ways in which we organize our presbytery to be faithful to that purpose. The first step in this process is gathering feedback from folks across the presbytery by means of this Landscape Assessment Survey.**

**This assessment is a way to learn what we are doing well and what we need to improve, and to discern how God is calling us to take the next faithful step into our life together. EVERY response is valuable. Please give your impressions as they are now, regardless of your familiarity with the work of the Presbytery.**

**Use the “Don’t Know” response only in those rare cases where you have no impression at all.**

**You will need about 20 minutes to fill out the entire survey and make comments.**

**Thank you for your time, your thoughts, and your continued prayers.**



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 2. Congregation

The Presbytery of West Virginia contains 8 relational clusters. Congregations are under each cluster in alphabetical order. If you are not sure which cluster your congregation is a part of, please look here:

<https://wvpresbytery.org/documents/cluster-list/>

1. In which cluster is your congregation located? Congregations are listed in alphabetical order under each relational cluster within the Presbytery.



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 3. Your Role

\* 1. Which of the below best describes your role in the Presbytery?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Congregation Member   | <input type="radio"/> Presbytery staff                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Congregational Christian Educator (in the last three years) | <input type="radio"/> Clerk of Session (In the last three years)            |
| <input type="radio"/> Active Clergy   | <input type="radio"/> Church Treasurer (in the last three years)            |
| <input type="radio"/> Retired Clergy  | <input type="radio"/> Presbytery committee member (in the last three years) |
| <input type="radio"/> Commissioned Pastor   |   |



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 4. Your Perspectives

1. The Presbytery makes available policies and procedures that are helpful in the day to day operation of a church.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

2. I experience a high level of collegiality as members work together in various Presbytery functions including quarterly meetings, on boards and committees, in collaborative ministries, and in partnership with the Presbytery staff.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

3. The clergy and lay leaders of our Presbytery show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

4. Our Presbytery leadership has done a good job of developing a shared vision that unites us.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

5. Persons serving in various Presbytery endeavors exhibit a genuine hospitality toward one another and new persons entering into our Presbytery as new clergy or new lay leaders.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

6. There is frequently a small group of members in our Presbytery that opposes what the majority want to do.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

7. Members have discovered that involvement in the work of our Presbytery can be a source of energy and spiritual renewal.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

8. Problems between groups in this Presbytery are usually resolved through mutual effort.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

9. Our Presbytery is effective in recognizing trends in the larger society and in helping us adapt in order to deal with those changes.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

10. Most important decisions about what our Presbytery should do as a whole are really made by the same, small group of people.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

11. In important decisions in our Presbytery, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

12. As a Presbytery we do a good job communicating with one another in a way that keeps us aware and engaged.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

13. Our Presbytery does a good job helping each member understand that he or she has an important role to play.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

14. Our Presbytery does a good job supporting persons who are serving in various Presbytery ministries.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

15. A positive spirit exists between the leaders of my congregation and the leaders of Presbytery.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

16. In this Presbytery it seems to me that we are just going through the motions. There isn't much excitement about it among our members.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

17. Our Presbytery has been successful in helping congregations like mine become more vital and effective.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

18. Some leaders in my congregation have unresolved issues with the leadership of our Presbytery that get in the way of our working together.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

19. I find Presbytery meetings to be a good use of my time and energy.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

20. On the whole, I am satisfied with how things are in our Presbytery.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

21. Among most of the members of our Presbytery there is a healthy tolerance of differing opinions and beliefs.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

22. I trust our Presbytery leadership to provide strong and competent support to my congregation during challenging times such as changes in clergy or other transitions.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

23. Our Presbytery leadership has been a valuable resource in helping my congregation cultivate the financial giving of our people.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

24. Because of my involvement in our Presbytery, I feel clearer about God's purpose for my life than I did three years ago.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

25. Our Presbytery helps members become engaged by finding roles for people that fit their gifts.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

26. Our Presbytery tends to stay very close to established ways of doing things

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

27. There is a disturbing amount of conflict in our Presbytery.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

28. Our Presbytery provides adequate opportunities for members to engage in work that is meaningful.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

29. Persons who serve as leaders in our Presbytery are generally representative of the members.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

30. The whole spirit in our Presbytery makes people want to get as involved as possible.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Tend to Disagree    Tend to Agree    Agree  
 Strongly Agree    Don't Know

31. Our Presbytery does a good job cultivating and using resources from within the Presbytery rather than bringing in consultants or other resources from outside the Presbytery.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 5. About The Future

**In this section of the survey possible goals are listed for our Presbytery for the next three to five years. The Leadership Team is interested in knowing where you believe that some ministries require additional energy. If you believe they are important and need to be expanded or improved, then you would give these a higher score. If you believe that other ministries require little or no additional energy because they are already being performed at an appropriate level of quality, then you would give these a lower score. Using the scale below respond to the questions that follow:**

1. Equip congregations to be more effective in addressing problems affecting their surrounding communities.

- No additional Energy    Little additional energy    Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy    High additional energy    Don't Know

2. Take a leadership role in new church development in promising regions of our Presbytery.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

3. Work with local congregations to increase the awareness of our Presbytery's mission and its unique impact upon the region that it serves.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

4. Provide on-site stewardship consultants and programs to local churches in order to substantially increase the financial resources of congregations.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

5. Improve the programmatic resources that our Presbytery makes available to congregations to insure that they are the most effective ways to do ministry in the church today.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

6. Streamline our Presbytery organizationally and administratively so that it makes better use of financial resources.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

7. Cultivate a higher level of trust within our Presbytery.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

8. Take a leadership role in working with churches that are struggling.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

9. Equip Clergy and other leaders in congregations with strategies that enable them to reach new members.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

10. Provide church leaders with the interpretive resources that will build more support for the work of our Presbytery among members of our congregations.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

11. Make our Presbytery more responsive to requests for assistance in dealing with particular needs including pastoral transitions, financial issues, or other pressing concerns.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

12. Develop a discernment process to rethink how to be vital Presbyterian churches in our specific region.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

13. Deepen our spiritual capacity as congregations to respond to life with serenity, confidence, and hope.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know

14. Equip Clergy and other leaders in congregations to help members become growing, vital disciples.

- No additional energy     Little additional energy     Moderate additional energy  
 Substantial additional energy     High additional energy     Don't Know



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 6. Your Involvement

1. Beyond sending representatives to annual Presbytery meetings, how engaged would you say that your congregation has been with any phase of the Presbytery's life and work in the last 12 months?

- Not engaged     Little engagement     Moderate engagement     Highly engaged  
 Don't Know



2. Over the last three years how has your congregation's engagement with the Presbytery changed?

- Less engaged     About the same     More engaged     Don't Know

3. If you have served in leadership positions of other Presbyteries/congregations, how would you compare your level of satisfaction with our Presbytery to other Presbyteries you have worked with?

- Less satisfied here     About the same     More Satisfied here     Not Applicable



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 7. Information about You

1. My age is...

- Below 16     16 - 24     25 - 34     35 - 44     45 - 54     55 - 64     65+

2. I identify my ethnicity as:

- Black or African-American     Asian or Pacific Islander  
 White     Multiple ethnicities  
 American Indian or Alaskan Native     I prefer not to answer  
 Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin

3. I have been involved in my congregation...

- Less than 1 year     1-2 years     3-5 years     6-10 years     11-20 years  
 20+ years

4. What would you say is your level of awareness regarding the work of our Presbytery?

- Unaware     Somewhat Aware     Moderately Aware     Very Aware

5. When I think about my gifts, interests, and time, I often feel that I have something to give our Presbytery but don't know how to give it.

- Strongly disagree     Disagree     Tend to disagree     Tend to agree     Agree  
 Strongly agree     Don't know



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 8. Change and Trends

**When searching for a new leader, it is important to have an idea of how much change we believe is required in our Presbytery.**

1. In order to make significant progress toward your vision for our Presbytery, how much change will be required?

- Almost no change                       Large amount of change  
 Small amount of change               Changes in nearly every area  
 Moderate amount of change           Don't know

2. Compared to the overall strength of the Presbytery three years ago, would you say the Presbytery is

- Much weaker     Weaker     About the same     Stronger     Much stronger  
 Don't know

3. In their actions, our members demonstrate open-mindedness and readiness to follow the lead of our General Presbyter and other Presbytery leaders.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Tend to Disagree     Tend to Agree     Agree  
 Strongly Agree     Don't Know

4. I am clear regarding where the Presbytery is headed and how we are going to get there.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Tend to Disagree     Tend to Agree     Agree  
 Strongly Agree     Don't Know



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 9. Strategic Planning

**Your answers to these questions are designed to help your leaders develop a strategic plan for your Presbytery.**

**Our Mission Statement:**

***The Presbytery of West Virginia is a baptized, covenant people called by God to reflect Christ's love through mission, ministry, and relationships.***

1. Our Presbytery has been effective in fulfilling the mission as expressed in our current mission statement.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

2. Our Presbytery needs to rethink its basic purpose and mission if it is to be effective in the future.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

3. Most Presbytery members are clear about how the role they play will help the Presbytery achieve its vision.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

4. As Presbytery members work collaboratively on various projects, conversations and plans are clearly influenced by the vision for the Presbytery.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 10. Communications

1. Our Presbytery does a good job communicating how our congregations' financial support is used in our Presbytery's work.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

2. Our Presbytery communicates in a way that gives me clarity about what services and support it offers congregations like mine.

- Strongly disagree    Disagree    Tend to disagree    Tend to agree    Agree  
 Strongly agree    Don't know

\* 3. To stay informed with what is happening with our Presbytery, I prefer to receive information:

- Weekly    Twice a month    Monthly    Whenever there is an important event

4. Which types of social of media do you use? (Please check all that apply)

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tumblr                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram | <input type="checkbox"/> Snapchat                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter   | <input type="checkbox"/> TikTok                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linkedin  | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pinterest |  |

\* 5. Overall, the frequency of communications from our Presbytery is:

- Not enough    The right amount    Too much    Don't know



## Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

### 11. Supplemental Questions

1. The size of my congregation could best be described as:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Small (under 50 average Sunday attendance)       | <input type="radio"/> Program size (226-800 average Sunday attendance)   |
| <input type="radio"/> Family size (50-75 average Sunday attendance)    | <input type="radio"/> Resource size (over 800 average Sunday attendance) |
| <input type="radio"/> Pastoral size (76-140 average Sunday attendance) | <input type="radio"/> Don't know   |
| <input type="radio"/> Transitional (141-225 average Sunday attendance) |  |

2. The context of my congregation could best be described as:

- Rural (draws congregants from close by)
- Regional (draws congregants from surrounding areas)
- Suburban (in residential community)
- Urban (downtown)
- Prayer community with no formal structure
- Don't know

3. I believe our Presbytery has a good understanding of the needs of our congregation.

- Strongly disagree     Disagree     Tend to disagree     Tend to agree     Agree
- Strongly agree     Don't know

4. I sometimes worry if my church has what it needs to exist in 10 years.

- Strongly disagree     Disagree     Tend to disagree     Tend to agree     Agree
- Strongly agree     Don't know

5. Over the last 3 years, being a part of my church community has deepened my connection with God.

- Strongly disagree     Disagree     Tend to disagree     Tend to agree     Agree
- Strongly agree     Don't know

6. I expect the Bluestone Camp to be an important part of my or my family's spiritual growth in the future

- Strongly disagree     Disagree     Tend to disagree     Tend to agree     Agree
- Strongly agree     Don't know

7. What additional information would you like the Presbytery leadership to know?



Landscape for the Presbytery of West Virginia

12. Thank you!

**Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey.**