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## Denver Presbytery

***"where ministries can thrive, servant leaders grow, and communities<sup>1</sup> are engaged!"***  
*Jeremiah 29:7<sup>2</sup>*

**Background:** The VCT (Vision Construction Team) is honored to share with the assembly a high-level mission, vision, and values sketch. We have consulted and received feedback from the DenPres Council and Staff and are now seeking the Assembly's impressions. We are not asking for a formal "approval" nor do we want to engage in "wordsmithing" at the assembly. However, we deeply desire to be aligned with God's vision and hope for DenPres, with the right posture and attitude as we move into developing a ministry and staffing plan and MIF.

After listening to feedback from the assemblies in January and the energetic Bright-Spotting in March; along with really helpful feedback in the recent leadership survey sent to all leaders of all congregations, new worshipping communities, partners, and every teaching elder in DenPres; we believe we have captured a glimpse of both who we are and who we aspire to become. This document reflects both of those realities—the *already* and the *not yet*—who we are and *who we aspire to be*. More of *how* we hope to incarnate this MVV will be communicated through a ministry and staffing plan this summer.

### **As you review, please take a reflective moment to ask yourself these questions:**

- *What words or phrases stood out for you? Which had the most energy and resonance? Which left you "flat"? Note: We will NOT be "wordsmithing" a document with 100+ people, but we want to ascertain your impressions.*
- *Which ones do you not understand or would like more clarity?*
- *There are eight values listed. Which of these do you think is currently most evident in Denver Presbytery? Which needs the most work?*
- *If Denver Presbytery truly guides its work and life by this document, what significant changes might we expect to see in 3-5 years?*

*May God enliven us with what God sees and with God's hopes for DenPres!*

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***"where ministries can thrive, servant leaders grow, and communities<sup>3</sup> are engaged!"***  
*Jeremiah 29:7<sup>4</sup>*

### **MISSION (what we DO)<sup>5</sup>**

To encourage, equip, and challenge congregations, broader faith expressions<sup>6</sup>, covenant partners, and their leaders, as they share the love and shalom<sup>7</sup> of Jesus Christ.

### **VISION (Who we want to become)**

Becoming a diverse, hospitable, innovative presbytery where ministries can thrive, servant leaders grow, and communities are engaged.

### **VALUES (each of these values will have their descriptions redrafted, but we wanted to capture the gist)**

- **Christ-centered, Prophetic**
  - Seeing with the eyes of Jesus, hearing with the ears of Jesus, loving with the heart of Jesus, and acting as the hands of Jesus.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging**
  - We demonstrate radical hospitality.
  - Nurture faith for generational transformation.
  - Develop leaders who are diverse, inclusive and adaptive.
  - Matthew 25 focus: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty
- **Community-Focus**
  - Engaging the community is more important than preserving an institution.
  - Encouraging facility use and resources to shift toward community engagement.
- **Partnering**
  - We value and encourage partnerships of all kinds wherever mutual mission alignment can be achieved.
- **Tension-Bearing**
  - We know there are persistent tensions in every community. We listen, model and bear them with grace except in those circumstances when we discern God's will to stand clearly as God's prophetic witness.
- **Trustworthy**
  - Demonstrating competence, Christian character, and good will in all that we do. Ensuring processes exhibit appropriate, healthy engagement, and transparency. [Extend Trust?]
- **Generative**
  - Vision and revision are always part of our life together, not a once-in-a-while episode.
  - Respond to the creativity of the Spirit with flexibility and encouragement.
- **Letting Go**
  - We are willing to lament and sacrifice as a Presbytery and let go of habits, attitudes, ministries, processes, and values that no longer serve to make room for new life.

### **THE INVITATION**

Participate in, pray for, and be transformed by what God is doing in our midst.



<sup>1</sup> Each congregation, new witnessing community, or partner agency necessarily needs to identify who is their community(ies). That could be the local geographic neighborhood, an international partner, an immigrant or other people/language group, a particular demographic or psychographic, or other.

<sup>2</sup> “But seek the welfare of the city...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7, NRSV)

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<sup>5</sup> This mission & vision is a DenPres way of saying what our *Book of Order* says about presbyteries: “*providing encouragement, guidance, and resources to its congregations in the areas of mission, prophetic witness, leadership development, worship, evangelism, and responsible administration to the end that the church’s witness to the love and grace of God may be heard in the world...and all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness.*” (G-3.0301)

<sup>6</sup> “Broader faith expressions” encompasses new worshipping communities, missional communities, new church developments, fellowships, and other fresh forms of Christ’s church that may develop. We are in a time of creativity beyond the inherited church form of the congregation and want to give God’s spirit room to breathe new life into what forms those expressions take!

<sup>7</sup> Shalom - The presence of community well-being, justice, wholeness, right relationship with one another. Much deeper than its most oft-translation: peace. There ain’t no better word than shalom.