

Mission Study Information from Congregational Life Committee
Revised May 15, 2018

Purpose of a mission study: To define who we are, what we feel called to be, and how will we get there as a church. A mission study is required by presbytery for a church seeking a full-time pastor. A church that is not seeking a pastor is encouraged to use some or all of the components of the mission study for helpful reflection every few years.

Process: Your liaison from the committee will meet with you to go over the process, different models of mission studies, and will provide you with a sample mission study. After all your survey work and information gathering is done, compose the mission study. As needed, contact your liaison with questions. Submit to Congregational Life Committee for review. Your liaison will meet with you to go over the committees comments/recommendations. Revise as needed. Session then needs to approve the study as an honest reflection of who you are as a congregation. Revise as needed and re-submit to Congregational Life Committee for approval. Congregational Life Committee approves and informs Committee on Ministry. Share mission study report with congregation.

Tips: Be honest about challenges and aspirations. Don't convey the pastor does everything. Convey detail not generalizations. Be intentional in getting feedback from members, non-members who attend, those who rarely attend, and those unable to attend.

The mission study needs to address the following:

1. Mission statement (what is our purpose?)
2. Give an overview of the mission study process
3. Brief history of the church
4. Comment on current financial status and provide a copy of budget
5. Community demographics and information and description of what the church does and desires to do to reach out to the community
6. List staff positions and provide a one sentence description
7. List each program, group, and committee and provide a one sentence description
8. Brief description of the building and property
9. In order of priority, a list of the responsibilities of the next pastor (if seeking one) and gifts needed to live into the call
10. Brief comments about prior pastors (gifts, strengths, accomplishments, etc..)
11. What issues for the congregation are raised in the study?
12. Survey (one your committee makes up, or a survey tool used such as Holy Cow Consulting) results and interpretation of them (what does this tell us?)
13. What is God calling us as a church to do now and what does that look like in the short and long term?