



“The Presbytery of Milwaukee gathers its congregations into a covenant partnership marked by faith, hope, love, trust and witness to Jesus Christ.”

– The Presbytery’s Vision, April 2012

Welcome to the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

As you join us in ministry, the presbytery’s *meeting planning team* shares this background and information about what to expect at presbytery gatherings.

In 2012, the presbytery adopted a new vision statement¹ that lifted up our regular presbytery meetings as a primary mechanism for communication and connection. To encourage widespread interest, enthusiasm, and participation in the life and work of the presbytery during our meetings, the presbytery adopted a new model for our time together with several hopes in mind:

Approach necessary business in a time-effective manner, using good process.

- Presbytery gatherings include a one-hour business meeting, during which items needing action are presented, discussed, and put up for a vote. The consent agenda includes items being considered for action that are not expected to require debate.
- Information sharing is limited to print and digital reports, distributed through presbytery packets, emails, projected screen “announcements” during meetings and, when appropriate, in the context of worship. Announcements may also be offered ten minutes prior to the start of the meeting.
- More in-depth discussion around sensitive and time-consuming issues happens regionally or during special events or “town hall” style gatherings.
- The day and/or time of meetings is planned to allow fuller participation, being sensitive in particular to those leaders with day jobs outside the Church.

Strengthen our relationships with one another.

- Meeting attendees eat together! The business meeting will adjourn and we will share a meal and a time for fellowship and conversation.
- The group will explore ways to build relationships at presbytery gatherings, enhancing these through intentional conversations and activities.



¹ The “What’s Next?” Committee Final Report, April 24, 2012, accessed at: www.pbymilwaukee.org.

Worship and experience God's presence.

- The focus will be on excellent worship, facilitated by bringing in nationally-known speakers and musicians who can lead us in worship and provide leadership development through workshops and seminars.
- Effort will be made to mark transitions – retirements, new calls, moves from inquiry to candidacy, ordinations – in the context of worship.

Tips for preparing for a presbytery meeting:

Be informed! Read the presbytery papers in advance. The bulk of the information in the reports will not be mentioned in the meeting, including action items in the *Consent Agenda*. If you have questions, comments, concerns . . . speak up! If you have a question about an item that can be handled in advance, please reach out to the contact person for the report (listed at the bottom of each report).

We *welcome* you and *welcome* your feedback and suggestions as we thoughtfully and prayerfully consider our time and work together.



Presbytery of Milwaukee
6767 West Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53214
414.292.2740
office@pbymilwaukee.org