



Being Church in a New Way

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In the Presbytery’s Holy Cow! assessment, you identified your greatest problem for the Presbytery to solve: more people. I’m still new, but no one’s shown me the magic wand yet. Maybe it’s in a drawer. Until I find it, this problem will be ours to solve together.

It’s a problem larger than the Presbytery. This summer, the Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life surveyed people on why they go to church. The answers make sense:

Top reasons U.S. adults give for choosing to attend or not attend religious services

Among U.S. adults who attend religious services at least once or twice a month, % who say _____ is a “very important” reason they ATTEND religious services



We try to meet these needs. Yet, the share of Americans who attend only a few times a year, seldom or never [has been growing](#). Three-quarters of people who attend church infrequently claim they practice their faith “in other ways” or are dissatisfied with the churches they’ve visited. This means **a lot of believing Christians who want to be closer to God, to raise their children in the faith, and to find comfort and Christian discipline don’t do so in our traditional congregations.**

With great foresight, the Presbytery put a structure into place to look at just this dilemma: how are we the church for people unlikely to come to church on Sunday morning? The Great Commission Task Force [now changing its name] has redefined its mission to look at all forms of alternative Christian communities. They want to help identify how and where people are practicing their faith “in other ways” and to empower leaders for these communities.

This is not a top-down effort for the Presbytery to pick random locations for a pub ministry or a bowling/choir club. The task force has special resources to help the Presbytery in its exploration, but [they need your input and leadership](#). In what settings are people sharing about their faith? How are [you](#) feeling called to serve a church in a new way? **If church weren’t at church, where should it be?** Look for upcoming opportunities to discern how we might reach the people for whom we’ve been longing. If you’re ready to move forward now, check out our [website](#) page and send us a message. We’re ready to help you be church in a new way.