



## **The Big Switcheroo**

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It's easy. CPM is still CPM (except the acronym is for a different name), and it took on some of the responsibility of COM, which is now CTM. Partnership became CVC, but it's doing a lot of what COM (now CTM) did. Council is still Council, with more. So, what's to explain?

On February 4, our big shuffle of responsibilities among our Presbytery commissions took effect. We made the adjustment to even out the work levels and align work differently. It should make a difference. We even had a meeting of the moderators of the affected commissions to test out scenarios. "If this happens, who will work on the matter?" Some tasks were clearly aligned with one commission. Others, shock and horror, will require cooperation between commissions. We've talked through how that can happen without much fuss.

I think it will work. I know it's worth a try. Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson urged us to experiment and keep what works. Although this is still largely a technical change – the assignment of the same responsibilities to different commissions – it's a way that we might build capacity for the more adaptive changes that are required to keep our ministries relevant.

For many of you, these changes won't be noticeable. The Commission on Pastoral Ministries (CPM), for example, is planning a number of retreats for different segments of pastors. If you're active in ministry, you might receive an invitation to a retreat from the Presbytery, and you probably won't care that CPM planned it, instead of CTM. What you should care about is that we have a commission designed specifically to care for our pastors – from inquirer status to those honorably retired in all types of ministries. CPM's role is to help our pastors feel healthy and fulfilled in ministry.

If you're a PNC in the midst of a pastoral search, it doesn't much matter whether you get help from CTM or CPM or CVC putting your MIF on the CLC to match with PIFs (another whole set of acronyms to memorize!). You just need someone to guide you through the process. The Commission on Transitional Ministries is set up to handle all active pastoral transitions, from the time of a possible pastoral leadership change through the call of a new pastor.

The Congregational Vitality Commission (CVC) is focused on congregational vitality efforts, as the name suggests. Just as we call for pastors, we care for congregations and want to offer the resources and education to help them flourish in ministry. You might not notice that a workshop on creative worship is hosted by CVC. You don't need to. We do hope, however, you'll notice each commission being responsive to the varied needs of the Presbytery.

Oh, Presbytery staff roles have shifted, too. Ann Gibbs is staffing our Congregational Vitality Commission (CVC) and the Commission on Pastoral Ministries (CPM). I (Rachel) am staffing the Council and Commission on Transitional Ministries (CTM). You might be used to calling one of us whenever you have questions on a particular matter. What we do might have changed, but we'll either answer your question or connect you to the other person. Or, call Chris Halverson at the main number because she is a font of wisdom and helpful information.

Little by little we're updating the website and our resource materials. That will take some time, but we'll get there eventually. We'll also be evaluating our effectiveness and tweaking where needed. As you navigate the orange cones of our construction zone, I offer my words of thanks for your patience. Please pardon the dust!