



*“Through authentic relationships, risk-taking for the gospel, and collaborative leadership, the Presbytery of Milwaukee supports congregations and leaders to serve as Christ directs.”*

## **Welcome to the Presbytery of Milwaukee**

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

Our regular presbytery meetings are a key way we communicate and connect. To encourage widespread interest, enthusiasm, and participation in the life and work of the presbytery during our meetings, the presbytery follows this model for our time together:

### **Approach necessary business in an efficient 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.
- At least one week before the business meeting, the agenda, all reports, and business papers are posted on our website and emailed. Commissioners are expected to read their packet ahead of the meeting and come prepared to discuss and vote.
- Rather than oral reports that repeat what is written, information sharing is limited to print and digital reports and projected screen “announcements” during the meeting. 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! We share a meal and a time for fellowship and conversation.
- The group explores ways to build relationships at presbytery gatherings, enhancing these through intentional conversations and activities.



### Worship and experience God's presence.

- We focus on excellent worship that is relevant to our theme for the year and that encourages deeper discipleship.
- A worship planning team works with the host congregation to offer inclusive and innovative worship.



### Learn and be challenged

- At least one hour of our gathering is devoted to education, facilitated by nationally-known speakers who provide leadership development through workshops, keynote addresses, and seminars.
- We aspire to be challenged during the education time, so that we leave the gathering equipped for change.



### 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.



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