

1 Recommendations from the Executive Presbytery Forum to the Synod Steering Committee  
2 September 8, 2011  
3

4 Our planned OUTCOME

5  
6 **A recommendation to the Synod Steering Committee regarding the way presbyteries in SLAP relate to**  
7 **one another and the synod and how the synod relates to the presbyteries.**  
8

9 The conversation started with purpose and characteristics (faith and function) and ended with structure  
10 and funding (form).  
11

12 We agreed that :

13 we start with FAITH in God,  
14 that we are a piece of a whole  
15 that there is value in community  
16

17 and that the community participates in discipling, discerning and holding one another  
18 accountable.  
19

20 We identified these ASSUMPTIONS, as we look ahead. In our life together :

21 There will be some structure  
22 There will be some staffing  
23 There will be some funding for the purpose of resourcing presbyteries  
24 There will be some life together  
25 Life will be different  
26 The whole will be less than it has been  
27

28 In order to MOVE TOWARD a more agile regional body with (potentially) fewer members and a strong  
29 reformed witness, **we recommend**

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- 31 1. That synod move toward a biennial assembly
  - 32 2. That synod move toward a working group structure that focuses on resourcing presbyteries as  
33 presbyteries work with their congregations
  - 34 3. That synod fund facilitator(s) who can help the executive/general presbyters and representatives  
35 from each of the presbyteries look at the shape and function of regional bodies
  - 36 4. That synod steering committee host a executive/general presbytery synod forum for the  
37 purpose of the conversation about the future of the synod in view of the changing picture of  
38 presbyteries.
  - 39 5. That synod divert mission dollars and post 2013 salary support dollars to convene presbyters  
40 and presbytery representatives to discern the shape and function of regional bodies
  - 41 6. That the Task Force on the Future of the Synod rewrite the recommendations so that the synod  
42 is active rather than passive.
  - 43 7. **That the Steering Cmte distribute these notes and recommendations to each of the Standing**  
44 **Cmtes for their discussion at the synod meeting, and that the Cmtes share their discussions**  
45 **back to the synod assembly during the discussions on the future of the synod Monday**  
46 **afternoon (October 3<sup>rd</sup>). It is not intended that committees act on these recommendations**  
47 **during this meeting. It is important that they consider the level of thinking among the Forum**  
48 **members and potential implications for the synod.**