

Notes from 8/29/16

When I asked you to discuss in what ways the Region may be Modern and what ways it may be post-modern in its operation, you named several things as follows:

Modern: (1) We tend to be institutional in approach but do increasingly communicate in post-modern ways. (2) We have an organizational architecture left over from the modern era. (3) Worship tends to be "attractational" in approach but is a rather authentic expression of our calling and identity. (4) Our staff numbers have been decimated by the financial and other crises.

Post-Modern: (1) More information is being shared on social media such as Facebook and the website (though the website could be more user friendly). (2) We offer mission grants without stipulating exactly how they must/should be used. (3) We have a small office and staff operate out of cars and home offices. (4) We have smaller committees now that are related directly to congregational life and needs.

Questions: How can ministers be more in relationship with each other? Can we develop virtual meeting capability that is user friendly and can we disciplined in our participation in it (not coming in several minutes late to calls)?

In regard to possible ways to network, perhaps we need a peer group for associate ministers, youth ministers, etc. as well as ministers in general.

We are already doing a number of the examples of networking but there is lots of room for expansion.

Regional elders could help recruit peer groups of pastors and others.

Affinity groups could be local (or in clusters) rather than necessarily being region-wide.

We need congregations to move past the hub and spoke model as well.

Start with reasonable goals and build from there.

We need resources for dialogues (cultural, generational, theological) from our higher education institutions.

**We need a change of culture, not just a change of structure!**