

Presbytery of Grand Canyon
Presbytery Meeting March 9, 2019
Opportunities for Open Space Discussion

Open Space Session 1 – Ed Spence – Eliminating Synods- Sanctuary

In these changing times in the PC (USA), with losses in revenue, losses in members and churches, we can no longer afford synods. They are a relic from the past and are not practical for the church today. Many of its functions can be done by Presbyteries, and the saved resources of money, people and time, could be devoted to help local churches. Synods are not relevant to many local churches, provide no program or support to them, so why do we keep them? Help reshape the future of the PC (USA) by engaging in a dialogue about this topic.

Open Space Session 2 – Gale Watkins – Changing Lives and Communities Through Running/Team World Vision- Chapel

Over the past four years, several Presbyterian churches (St. Andrews, Tucson; Orangewood and Westminster, Phoenix; Heritage, Glendale) have joined together with other Arizona congregations as part of a national ministry, Team World Vision.

We ask family and friends to sponsor us as we train and participate in a half marathon or a marathon. All of the money we raise is used to provide clean water for children and families in Africa. Clean water changes lives and communities. For instance, when there is clean and safe water, girls can go to school because they no longer have to spend hours obtaining water at an average distance of 6 kilometers. A gift of \$50.00 provides one person with clean water for life! On February 9, 138 TWV runners and walkers participated in the Mesa/Phoenix marathon and half marathon, raising \$157,000. Join us on March 9 to learn about the unexpected benefits of working together in an outreach that changes lives in Africa, and our own lives. Perhaps you have runners, potential runners, or walkers in your congregation who would like to be part of Team World Vision. You will be encouraged to learn about a ministry that is thriving here in Arizona and all over the US. To learn more, go to teamworldvision.org.

Open Space Session 3 – Tom Lineweaver and Jenifer Frasier – What do you want most for our Presbytery?- Annex 1

We plan to host a conversation around the following four questions:

1. What would you most like to see happen in our Presbytery over the next three years?
2. What do we need to do to get this done?
3. What obstacles are in the way?
4. Theology: What convictions will this require? It would be good to include Scripture and Confessional citations, (critical or strategic texts)

Open Space Session 4 – Brad Munroe – Thrive Project 2.0 – what we’re leaning about congregational renewal.- Annex 2

We will (1) discuss what we are learning about congregational renewal from our participation in the Thrive Project and (2) answer questions regarding the status of our participation in the national pilot project administered through the Vital Congregations office. The recent “wobble” in our relationship with the pilot project has forced us to consider what is essential in congregational renewal versus what is incidental. That is, what really matters – where does the heart of renewal lay – versus what are helpful steps and productive actions that seem necessary but may not be?