

Frequently Asked Questions

Culture

- How will networks and partnerships be supported and who will address any questions about their alignment with the mission of Blackhawk Presbytery?
 - *The word “support networks and partnerships” has been changed to “encouraging Presbyterians & Presbyterian Churches to work together and facilitate communication amongst these connections.”*
 - *The Mission Committee will encourage churches to work together in mission activities and will facilitate communication about them. The Presbytery Council will address any questions about alignment with the mission of Blackhawk Presbytery.*

- Will the current network and partnership links remain on Blackhawk’s webpage?
 - *Yes, however, the wording on the cover page will be changed from “networks and partnerships” to “examples of Presbyterians & Presbyterian Churches to work together.”*

- What does it mean that churches hosting Presbytery meetings will be obliged to offer networking activities before or after the meeting?
 - *The word “oblige” has been changed to “strongly encouraged.” The hope is that hosting churches will provide the Presbytery Assembly Planning Committee ideas for simple activities either before or after the Presbytery Meeting. These could be as simple as identifying a local restaurant, coffee shop, bar, or golf course where people could meet to get to know each other better.*

- Could the plan to improve culture also include improving the way we introduce new teaching elders?
 - *Yes, the plan has been revised to include having new teaching elders write a biographical statement and taking five minutes to introduce themselves at the Presbytery meeting after which a prayer would be offered for their new ministry.*

- How will the outstanding per capita assessments of some congregations be addressed?
 - *The Business Affairs Committee plans to contact all churches concerning per capita payments and shared mission giving. The purpose is to have conversations that increase understanding of the purpose and importance of presbytery funding.*

Structure

- How will Blackhawk find a parliamentarian?

- *The Nominating Committee will be charged with announcing this position and nominating candidates for it.*
- Will the parliamentarian be compensated?
 - *The parliamentarian will receive a \$100 stipend per Presbytery meeting which is comparable to that of the Recording Secretary.*
- How does the new structure actually help us enter the 21st century?
 - *Good question. We removed "21st century" because the plan tries to address current needs and realities, but it does not claim to be futuristic.*
- Will committee moderators, who also serve on the Presbytery Council, burn out because of the extra time commitment?
 - *The commitment of time will be similar to what moderators currently spend attending Board of Moderators meetings. So the answer is no more than they do now and perhaps even less than they do now if they feel the new structure is more efficient.*
- How will indifference or questions about the value of Blackhawk Presbytery be addressed so that members see value in Blackhawk?
 - *The Presbytery Council will develop a vision statement in an attempt to articulate the value and focus the direction of Blackhawk.*
- Should the COM regional boundaries within Blackhawk Presbytery be updated?
 - *The Committee on Ministry has the power to adjust the area boundaries in a way that facilitates its members best covering all the churches in the presbytery.*
- How will we get enough people to fill the positions being proposed?
 - *The number of overall positions on committees has been reduced which balances out the increased number of positions on the Presbytery Council. The Nominating Committee will address this challenge and everyone can help by giving them names of people that may be interested in serving.*
- Will Stronghold report to the Presbytery Council or the Presbytery Assembly?
 - *Both. It will report first to the Presbytery Council and the Presbytery Council will share that report with the Presbytery Assembly.*

Finance

- What will the new format for financial reports look like?
 - *A sample financial report has been prepared that combines the mission budget and per capita budget into one report.*
- In the new budget report format will we still be able to see all the line items that we are used to seeing in the two separate reports?

- *Yes, all the budget lines will still exist with the same names. They will simply be combined in one report.*
- In the financial projections, how is it possible for our expenses to go down so dramatically?
 - *Blackhawk's total expenses will go down as Stronghold becomes more financially independent. Stronghold has made a commitment to become financially independent in 4 years, which means Blackhawk's assistance with Stronghold's budget will go from approximately \$70,000 in 2017 to 0 in 2020. Blackhawk's annual mission support of \$50,000 is not projected to change.*

General

- Are all of the proposed changes going to be reviewed and approved by an attorney?
 - *Yes, the changes to the Corporate By-Laws are being reviewed by an attorney. Because the changes have largely been modeled after Chicago Presbytery (approved by their attorney) it is not anticipated that our attorney will have any major concerns.*
- Should we change the term "Teaching Elders" now in anticipation of it changing?
 - *GA222 amendments to change titles seems on its way to passing, when the decision is final, we will make the change to "Ministers of the Word and Sacraments."*