

A Note on Annotations:

The 2020 Vision Team developed these scriptural and confessional references to serve as jumping-off points for engagement with the Guiding Statement. There are references from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Book of Confessions. From the Hebrew Bible, you will find selections of the stories contained in Genesis, as well as a call story for each focal word (Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive). From the New Testament, the focus is on how the parables of Jesus relate to each of the focal words. The selections from the Book of Confessions are designed to partner with the scriptural texts. While there are many other passages from scripture that informed the work of the Vision 2020 Team, our intention is for these passages to serve as potential seeds for the development of sermons, curricula, retreats, series, and other educational/engagement materials based on the Guiding Statement.

Guiding Statement

Our Reformed heritage understands the power of words and we humbly offer this guiding statement as speaking truth and declaring life.

The 2020 Vision Team was mandated by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and charged with developing a guiding statement for the denomination as it moves into the future. In the faithful desire to discern the will of God we listened throughout the denomination and beyond, hearing hope and frustration, expectation and anxiety. Along our journey even when it is hard to see the way forward, God has spoken and continues to speak to us in these times and places.

Therefore, God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be:

Prayerful

- Confessing our sin to God and those we have wronged, we accept our responsibility for the brokenness in the world and in ourselves. In Christ we are assured of forgiveness and freed to forgive others.¹
- We ask the Holy Spirit to direct and guide us as we actively listen to Scripture and fully engage in the joys and challenges of life in this present world.²
- By grace Christ binds us together, cleanses us in the waters of baptism, nourishes us at the Lord's table, and sends us out to share the Good News.³

Courageous

- Reformed and always being reformed, we follow the Holy Spirit in new and imaginative ways to places we have not yet been.⁴
- We foster the hope of reconciliation in Christ who transforms the world through healing individuals and communities.⁵
- We work for God's justice and peace for all people in every land, walking with the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the abused.⁶

United

- As members of the Church universal, we are Christ's disciples, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.⁷
- Against forces that seek to divide, Christ compels us to bear witness to a love that connects communities across great differences.⁸
- We approach others in a spirit of openness and trust as we follow Jesus Christ in respecting the freedom of other religions, worldviews, and traditions.⁹

Serving

- Gratefully following the One who washed his disciples' feet, we listen to our neighbors, working to meet their practical needs.¹⁰
- We partner with others to become the hands and feet of God in the world, showing compassion and generosity to all creation.¹¹
- The Holy Spirit pushes us beyond the familiar, meeting people where they are as we share Christ's transformative love.¹²

Alive

- We are people of the resurrection: though death surrounds us, we are not afraid because we follow the One who was raised from the tomb.¹³
- The Holy Spirit gives us courage to build a community that reflects the fullness of God's image in humanity: beautifully diverse in age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexuality, physical and mental ability, geography, and theological conviction.¹⁴

¹ Genesis 50:15-21; Luke 11:5-10; Second Helvetic Confession 5.003, C67 9.36

² Proverbs 8; Luke 18:1-8; Second Helvetic Confession 5.037, C67 9.12, 9.13

³ Jeremiah 1:4-10; Matthew 6:9ff; Second Helvetic Confession 5.095, C67 9.29, 9.30

⁴ Genesis 6:11-22; Luke 10:25-37; C67 9.20, 9.22

⁵ Genesis 33:1-11; Matthew 5:14-15; C67 9.31

⁶ Amos 2:6-8, 5:10-12, 5:18-24; Matthew 13:45-46; C67 9.43-45

⁷ Exodus 3:1-12; Matthew 20:1-16; C67 9.42

⁸ Genesis 18:16-33; John 15:1-8; Second Helvetic Confession 5.141

⁹ Joel 2:28-30; Isaiah 56:3-8; Second Helvetic Confession 5.055-5.056

¹⁰ 1 Kings 17:8-16; Matthew 25:31-46; Second Helvetic Confession 5.018

¹¹ Ruth 2; Luke 16:19-31; Second Helvetic Confession 5.019

¹² Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 18:12-14; Second Helvetic Confession 5.020

¹³ Daniel 6:10-28; Mark 4:26-29; Second Helvetic Confession 5.029, 9.55

¹⁴ Genesis 1:26-31; Matthew 13:33; Second Helvetic Confession 5.126

• In the sure and certain hope of resurrection, we joyfully testify that the Church and its members are called to follow Christ's model by risking all, even life itself, for the sake of the Gospel.¹⁵

And so, God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be: **Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive.**
Thanks be to God.

¹⁵ Esther 4:1-17; Matthew 13:31-32; C67 9.32-33