

Three-Presbytery Task Force Begins Its Work

The Synod of the Pacific – at the request of our three presbyteries – has established a task force to guide a conversation among the congregations and leaders of Eastern Oregon, Boise, and Kendall as we think about how we can strengthen one another for the Presbyterian mission in our part of the Synod.

Why was this task force formed?

All our presbyteries are getting smaller and are having a harder time filling leadership positions. The presbyteries voted to ask Synod to appoint the task force to help us discern our future.

Who are the members of the task force?

Each presbytery has three representatives. In the Boise Presbytery, the representatives are Katey Schwind Williams (TE, Boone Memorial), Mathew Eardley (RE, First Boise), and Rachel Yates (RE, Transitional Presbyter/Stated Clerk).

Will this be a top-down decision? Will Synod impose a decision?

No. There is no assumed outcome. Any decisions will arise out of conversations within the task force and with all three presbyteries and their churches.

How will they communicate and seek input from all of us?

The task force will seek your input regularly and report its progress to presbytery meetings. You will be asked to vote on any final recommendations they develop.

Does this mean some or all the presbyteries will be merged?

Not necessarily. No particular way forward is assumed.

How will any task force recommendations be implemented?

The task force will make a final report to the Synod Assembly, we will recommend any changes to the GA Administrative Commission on Mid Councils.

How long with this discernment process take?

Somewhere around 5-6 months for the task forces work, plus extra time for Synod and the Mid Councils AC's consideration.