

CORRECTED VERSION OF MINISTRY GROUP MANUAL CHANGES

10. MINISTRY GROUPS

10.1. Definition.

A Ministry Group is a regional grouping of congregations that send representatives to periodic gatherings committed to nurturing the well-being and faithfulness of the congregations and leaders within their region. Their ministry will seek to work within the context of the vision of the Presbytery of Baltimore.

10.2. Purpose:

To further, among a region's congregations, the Presbytery's mission of encouraging, challenging and equipping its congregations to thrive spiritually and serve effectively as apostles of reconciliation.

10.3. Membership and Staff:

Each congregation may designate at least one ruling elder and its teaching elders to participate in the Ministry Group. The Presbytery staff will also provide staff support as able.

10.4. Meetings:

Each Ministry Group will ordinarily meet at least three times annually.

10.5. Convener:

Each Ministry Group will elect a convener or conveners for an initial two year term, with the possibility of annual re-election. Election will be in terms consistent with the Presbytery leadership election cycle.

The convener will be responsible for:

10.5.1. Planning and leading Ministry Group meetings,

10.5.2. Welcoming new teaching elders called to member congregations,

10.5.3. Providing pastoral care to all teaching elders within the Ministry Group, and

10.5.4. Other duties as detailed in the Ministry Group Convener Job Description.

10.6 Ministry Group Conveners' Board

10.6.1 Periodically, the Ministry Group Conveners gather as the Ministry Group Conveners' Board, meeting with Presbytery staff as appropriate.

10.6.2 The Board will elect a chair or co-chairs to lead the Conveners' Board and represent the Ministry Groups on the Presbytery Steering Cabinet. Election will be in terms consistent with the Presbytery leadership election cycle.

10.7. Changes in Membership:

A church may petition the Steering Cabinet to move from one Ministry Group to another. Such a request shall also require the concurrence of the Ministry Groups involved.

10.8. Funding:

Ministry Groups will generally be given freedom to spend funds assigned to them in ways that further the vision of the Presbytery. Requests for additional funds or programs that exceed \$9,999 will require approval of the Steering Cabinet.

10.9. Evaluation and Accountability:

Annually, the Ministry Group Conveners' Board will report to the Presbytery Steering Cabinet regarding their progress in advancing the vision of the Presbytery and how funds were spent.