

IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SESSION AND THE DEACONS
(From New Beginnings Small Groups)

Ministry Common Theme	Admin & Personnel	Christian Education	Congregational Care	Communications	Discipleship	Fellowship
Local Mission and Outreach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education around working with folks we may serve (children, poor/disadvantaged, etc.) - Expand Wed Nite Live to offer transitional groups for community (e.g., Divorce Recovery, Parenting Classes, NAMI, Grief Support, Al-Anon) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blogs - focusing on Mission Partners in the congregation - reaching out/marketing to new move-ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intentional Spiritual Discernment group - praying together and listening for God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holiday lunch/dinner for community kids and families - Invite community to church picnics
Getting to Know Each Other Better	Create volunteer source of information for professional advice, careers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relational adult Sunday school classes/a small group approach to sunday school - potentially divided into some sort of 'life stages' at a high level - Bible study groups in homes or non-church locations & invite neighbors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer group meetings to support singles, divorced, widowed, grief, empty nesters, care givers, etc. ("transitional" topics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build awareness of activities of others that surround us (many give their time to good causes) - Post elders/deacons and ministries lists on web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Covenant Households" - volunteer FPCGV households enter into a covenant (a promise) with three other households within the congregation to (i) look for each other on Sunday & reach out if needed, (ii) pray for each other and (iii) be the heartbeat of Christ in times of need for their covenant household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop/invite suggestions for more frequent fellowship opportunities - Continue to offer dinners for 8/monthly suppers - Create a cooking class
Time/ability to commit is very different for each person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smaller number of officers (1 per ministry) - Shorten terms for lay leaders - Consider 1 board instead of two 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinitiate coffee pot class 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate opportunities to coordinate call for volunteers/establish a Head Volunteer to provide guidance and channel efforts - Monthly email with links for sign-up for communion servers, ushers, greeters, coffee bar, Care Calendar, etc. 		
Creating Disciples and Reducing Dependence on Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership training for lay leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discipleship education for congregation, perhaps congregation wide program for youth & adults - Develop long-term, cohesive Sunday School groups that learn together (focus on building bonds within those groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for other prayer groups (Sunday mornings?) - Partner new members with established members for a year 			
Other			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form shepherd groups to keep members from falling out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisit/rewrite the mission statement, keep it concise & have it displayed throughout the church 		
	COMMENTS FOR ALL:					
	Get members involved in areas of interest they submitted on their forms					
	Make volunteer "asks" personal and be specific regarding time and task					
	When we are involved in volunteering activities outside of the church, everyone should wear a badge with their name and "First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine" – a very subtle way of marketing.					
	Increase the Programs budget to provide for advertising & materials for programs where non-members are invited					
	Increase Mission budget each year					

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Ministry Common Theme	Finance	Mission	Property	Visitor & Evangelism	Worship & Music
Local Mission and Outreach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine needs of community (don't overlap with other resources) and increase ecumenical partnerships in community service - Develop a church-wide community-based mission - Tutoring program at our church or local elementary school (1 day/week) - Parents night out for single moms near church and Big Hope parents - Mentoring to Grace Apts. residents - Enlarge our presence in Big Hope (e.g., more support of families involved, more adoption of school through support of activities) - Become more involved in Feet our Kids and Feed our kids - Become more aware of the homeless at Lake Grapevine – how can we help - Family mission trips or local outreach (cross generational) - Greater emphasis on local over foreign mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be open to groups that might use the facilities – quilters, men's clubs, book clubs - Open the playground for neighborhood use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More involvement/support of our preschool families & staff - Host National Night Out on church grounds for neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor spring services with invitation to community
Getting to Know Each Other Better				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research other/more effective ways to welcome visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider one vs. two services - Restart passing of peace (perhaps at end of service?) - Enhanced meet & greet (make it common for people to introduce themselves)
Time/ability to commit is very different for each person		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create and publish an annual calendar for all mission activities where members can proactively select, plan and commit to activity 			
Creating Disciples and Reducing Dependence on Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep finances and mortgage visible 				
Other			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make the church more visible to the neighborhood with outdoor activities, signs, banners - Install solar panels and use as marketing tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop plan to better market our church - Invite others to Wed. Nite Live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select more familiar hymns
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