

What are your hope or longing regarding the creation of one Presbytery?

1. Excitement About Working Together as One Participants expressed excitement about the possibilities of working together as a single presbytery, hoping this would foster greater unity and collaboration among churches. (February 3 Denison, March 3 Sioux City)

- *Example:* "Excited about the possibilities of working together as one."

2. Expanded Shared Mission and Ministry There is a strong hope that a merged presbytery would enable more robust shared mission work, joint mission trips, and larger, more vibrant gatherings. (March 3 Sioux City)

- *Example:* "Mission trips, meetings, etc. held in one presbytery will be planned and available to all."

3. Increased Resources and Support for Small Churches Participants long for the merger to bring more resources and support, especially for small and rural congregations, through pooled financial and human resources. (March 19 Zoom, March 3 Sioux City)

- *Example:* "The merger should make more resources available."

4. Opportunities for Learning and Innovation There is hope that the merger will allow churches to learn from each other's experiences, innovate in ministry, and use technology more effectively for meetings and outreach. (March 19 Zoom, February 3 Denison)

- *Example:* "Interest in learning from the activities and experiences of other presbyteries, seeing opportunities for sharing knowledge, experience, and mission."

5. Potential for Greater Stability and Growth Some participants hope that a larger presbytery could provide more stability, help address declining membership, and possibly lead to intentional growth strategies. (February 3 Denison, March 3 Sioux City)

- *Example:* "Would there be an 'intentional' membership growth plan in a new single presbytery?"

6. Enhanced Identity and Broader Impact There is a longing for the presbytery to be perceived as more than just an administrative body, but as a source of support and inspiration at both the beginning and end of church life. (March 3 Sioux City)

- *Example:* "Presbytery is looked at as helping at the beginning and the end and this may expand what presbytery is perceived to do."

These hopes and longings reflect a desire for unity, increased support, innovation, and a more vibrant shared ministry across the region.