

Summary of Listening Session Questions

Prospect Hill

1. What hopes or longings arise in you when you hear about the idea of the creation of one Presbytery?

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

2. What fears, griefs, or resistances do you notice – in yourself or in our Presbytery?

These fears, griefs, and resistances reflect both emotional and practical concerns about the merger, highlighting the importance of communication, equity, and maintaining local identity within a larger presbytery structure.

3. How might a merger expand our capacity for mission, innovation, or support of small churches?

The merger is seen as a way to expand mission reach, foster innovation through technology and collaboration, and provide more robust support for small churches—provided that equity and local voices are maintained.

4. What challenges to you foresee in the process if the three Presbyteries decide to become one.

Summary Table of Key Challenges

Challenge Area	Example Concern or Question
Local Voice & Identity	Will rural churches be left behind?
Equitable Support	Will care/resources be distributed fairly?
Administration & Logistics	How to merge committees, manage meetings, office location?
Cultural Differences	Can a common identity be created?

Challenge Area	Example Concern or Question
Financial Uncertainty	Will the merger save money? How will funds be allocated?
Declining Participation	Will the merger address or just combine existing challenges?
Leadership Shortages	Will it be easier to find pastors and leaders?
Communication	Are all members and churches well-informed and engaged?
Timeline & Implementation	How long will the process take and what steps are required?

These challenges highlight the need for intentional planning, transparent communication, and a focus on equity and shared identity to ensure a successful merger process.

5. How would success be measured - not institutionally, but spiritually and missionally?

Summary Table: Spiritual and Missional Success Measures

Measure	Description/Example
Participation & Engagement	More active members and pastors, vibrant gatherings
Support & Care	Pastors/congregations feel supported and cared for
Mission & Witness	Increased mission activity and community impact
Spiritual Renewal	Churches/individuals deepening faith and service
Shared Vision & Communication	Clear, inspiring vision communicated to all
Equity for Small Churches	Small/rural churches receive needed support

In summary, spiritual and missional success would be measured by the vitality, engagement, and faithfulness of congregations and leaders, the depth of care and support provided, and the visible impact of mission and witness in the wider community.

6. What non-negotiables must be honored if we proceed?

Summary Table: Non-Negotiables for the Merger

Non-Negotiable	Description/Example
Equitable Support & Voice	All congregations must have a voice and fair support
Lakeshore Camp	Camp must be preserved and supported
Financial Transparency	Clear, fair, and open financial processes
Local Church Autonomy	Churches retain control over ministry decisions
Effective Communication & Inclusion	All members/churches kept informed and included
Commitment to Mission & Vision	Merger guided by spiritual/mission priorities

In summary, while some participants stated "there really shouldn't be any non-negotiables," the listening sessions reveal clear priorities that must be honored for the merger to be accepted and successful.