

How would success would be measured spiritually and missionally (not institutionally) in the context of a presbytery merger?

1. Spiritual Measures of Success

- **Level of Obedience and Faithfulness:** Success is seen in how faithfully the presbytery and its congregations follow God's call, rather than just achieving institutional goals. (Feb 10 Zoom)
 - Example: "Measure level of obedience rather than 'success.'"
- **Experience and Sharing of God's Love:** A key spiritual metric is whether people are feeling and sharing God's love more fully within their communities. (Feb 10 Zoom)
 - Example: "Are you feeling God's love more fully? Are you sharing God's love more?"
- **Vibrant Discipleship and Spiritual Growth:** Less focus on administration and more on discipleship, supporting faith journeys, and nurturing spiritual growth. (Feb 17 Hartford)
 - Example: "Less administrative and more discipleship oriented could bring more support for the missions/partnerships in place already."

2. Missional Measures of Success

- **Increase in Ministries and Cooperative Efforts:** Success is reflected in a growth of ministries, especially those that are cooperative across congregations, rather than just individual efforts. (Feb 17 Hartford)
 - Example: "Increase in ministries; decrease in individual ministries and increase in cooperative ministries."
- **Active Mission in Local Communities:** The presbytery is recognized as an active partner in each church's mission to its community, not just as an administrative body. (March 5 WDM Covenant)
 - Example: "Recognize the Presbytery as an active member of each church – especially regarding mission in a church's community."
- **Bringing People to Christ and Church:** A missional measure is whether the presbytery is helping to bring more people to Christ and into the life of the church. (March 5 WDM Covenant)
 - Example: "Are we part of 'bringing people to church?'"
- **Creativity and Adaptability in Mission:** Encouraging creative approaches to mission, especially for small churches, and adapting to changing contexts. (March 5 WDM Covenant)
 - Example: "Small churches must be more creative."

3. Additional Reflections

- **Focus on Purpose Over Self-Preservation:** Success is not about self-preservation of the institution, but about living out the church's calling. (Feb 10 Zoom)
 - Example: "How much is self-preservation? What is the church doing that is unsafe?"
- **Tangible Impact Over Numbers:** While growth in membership can be a sign, numbers alone do not always reflect vitality. The focus should be on tangible spiritual and missional impact. (March 5 WDM Covenant)
 - Example: "Numbers don't always show vitality in a church. Times change."

Summary Table of Spiritual and Missional Success Measures:

Spiritual Measures	Missional Measures
Obedience to God's call	Increase in cooperative ministries
Feeling and sharing God's love	Active mission in local communities

Spiritual Measures	Missional Measures
Spiritual growth and discipleship	Bringing people to Christ/church
Focus on purpose, not preservation	Creativity and adaptability in mission
Vibrant faith journeys	Tangible impact, not just numbers

Conclusion: Success, spiritually and missionally, is measured by the depth of faith, the sharing of God’s love, growth in discipleship, active and creative mission in communities, and the ability to work together for God’s purposes—rather than by institutional size or administrative achievements.