

West Valley Town Halls: Possible Pathways Forward

In-Person & Zoom 5/15/2022 (Sanctuary) - Dan Yuen, Presenter
In-Person Discussion 5/22/2022 (Room 15) – Mike Clark & Morgan Murray, Facilitators

Our Stated Goals (where we want to go)

1. To care for the existing WVPC congregation, ensuring that no one gets left behind
2. To see that the property and resources of WVPC are used to advance the kingdom of God for generations to come

Our Journey So Far (where we've been)

<u>2018</u>	
June	Blessed Pastor Kim Engelmann for her service
Nov	Hired Pastor Morgan Murray as Transitional Pastor
<u>2019</u>	
Feb	Decided to explore a possible merger/union with GrX
March	Had initial conversations with Pastor Scott Loo of GrX
<u>2020</u>	
Jan	Pastor Scott visited, preached at West Valley
March	Beginning of COVID-19 Pandemic
Nov/Dec	Session heard presentations from GrX and Onnuri re: Takeover
<u>2021</u>	
March	Gathering of West Valley and GrX Leaders
April	Began working through Clawback Clause issues
May	Joint Gathering of West Valley & GrX Women
<u>2022</u>	
Jan	Got response from San Jose Presbytery re: Clawback Clause
Mar	West Valley Session & GrX Leaders agree to end discussions
Apr	Pastor Frank Riley presents to Session and Transition Team <i>Five Models for Kingdom Expansion with Long-Term Results</i>

Important to Remember: After Nov 2020, GrX asked that we NOT explore alternative pathways forward for our future.

Pathways Forward, from Easiest to accomplish to Hardest

PCUSA option: Close our doors before May 2025 and give the property back to SJP/PCUSA.

Legacy option: Continue to exist on a reduced scale for three years to wait out the Dismissal Agreement then close our doors and shut down as a congregation. At the end of three years we can either give the campus to ECO, or sell the property and give the proceeds to ECO to (likely) be used for planting of new churches.

Network option: Satellite approach. We ask another ECO congregation to come take over our campus to run and grow the ministry operation. Our campus becomes a satellite branch of a larger congregation.

Examples: The ECO Menlo Park Presbyterian Church operates satellite campuses on a number of church sites, such as Saratoga Pres. Another suggestion: Invite ECO Vintage Faith in Santa Cruz to send a team to start new congregation onsite, or ask ECO Christ Community Church (Milpitas Pres) to do the same. WVPC would still need to exist as a church in good standing with BWP until the SJP Dismissal Agreement expires.

Restart/Reboot option: We seek the assistance of Presbytery and Synod to recruit a pastor to conduct a New Church Plant on our campus. This means WVPC will continue to exist for three years, but on a reduced scale, with intent to shut down upon expiration of the dismissal agreement.

Over the next three years BWP/ECO will actively help us look for a church plant pastor to come onto campus. New church plant would grow its new congregation on the corner of Miller and Bollinger with an entirely new leadership team and members. WVPC members would not be part of the church plant leadership team.

Invitational option: We ask a non-ECO church to take over our church campus and allow WVPC members to attend until the dismissal agreement expires, then give the campus to the non-ECO church. **This was Plan B with GrX.**

The challenge is finding an English-speaking congregation that is culturally ethnically and theologically compatible with WVPC, and who wants to partner with us for the next three years.

Merger option: We look for another local ECO congregation that wants to merge with us with the hope that we will grow together.

One challenge is finding another local ECO congregation who wants to merge with us. The bigger challenge concerns the details of merging two congregations together.

Revitalization option: We decide we want to continue existing and growing as a congregation, so we call a new ECO pastor to come help us grow our congregation.

This is the most difficult option. The greatest difficulty will be finding a pastor who will accept the challenge of revitalizing an older congregation that does not reflect the ethnic diversity of the surrounding community. Probably best to look for a youth pastor of color who leads a youth group of 200 kids or more and who also inspires strong parent involvement.