



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Approximately 10 years ago, a group of pastors and elders gathered to dream about something new; a different way of being the church in the 21st Century. What began simply as an initiative designed to explore a “new wineskin” for the church, grew to become The New Wineskins Association of Churches. Over the years our fellowship grew to include 180 congregations from all across our country, with supportive and developing partnerships worldwide.

At a crucial point in our association’s development, we commissioned a Strategy Team to chart the course for our future together. That team produced a report which envisioned an association that organized like minded Reformed congregations into a missional body regardless of denomination. We defined the Essential Tenets of our faith, established a constitution for the association and since that time we have had multiple national and local gatherings as well as having been endorsed by churches across denomination lines and around the world.

Today, The New Wineskins Association of Churches has member churches in the PC(USA), the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and other reformed bodies. We affirm each church’s place of ministry and continue to work towards a missional vision of the church in the 21st Century.

In 2008 the EPC formed the New Wineskins *Transitional* Presbytery for churches who were members of the association and wanted the opportunity to live into the New Wineskins vision within that denomination. This presbytery was created to be a temporary place where some would be called to demonstrate this new reality and “incubate” this Missional vision. By design, in June of 2012, The New Wineskins *Transitional* Presbytery (NWEPC) will cease to exist. Those congregations and pastors still remaining in the NWEPC will be encouraged to become a part of an EPC geographic presbytery as that whole denomination transitions to become a Missional, Reformed and Evangelical body of believers.

The recent voting on constitutional matters by presbyteries within the PC(USA) represents the serious departure from Biblical standards that are very troubling to us and many others. We are grateful to see the creation of like-minded groups such as “The Fellowship” in response to these circumstances. As you can imagine, numerous concerned congregations are now calling to inquire about “The New Wineskins.” We believe that it should be clearly noted that The New Wineskins Association of Churches (NWAC) is distinct and ought not to be confused with the New Wineskins *Transitional* Presbytery of the EPC (NWEPC). As the NWAC, we stand ready to assist any congregation as they wrestle with what it means to be faithful in the midst of these changing denominational realities. We exist to serve you and your congregation as a resource in whatever way you may need.

For more information, explore our website at [New Wineskins Association of Churches](#) and click on the “Resources” button at the top of the page and then open the “papers” folder.

Blessings,
The Leadership Team
New Wineskins Association of Churches



New Wineskins Association of Churches Vision Statement

We envision a connectional structure that . . .

- Serves the ministry and mission of the local congregation
- Is united by a mutual commitment to a broadly evangelical and biblical theology
- Fosters relational networks based on ministry context as well as regional proximity
- Provides accountability, support, and discipline in a healthy, balanced, biblical way
- Is flexible and responsive to changing needs and cultural dynamics
- Supports and encourages partnerships for cooperative mission between congregations
- Encourages partnerships for ministry and mission with Christians of other denominations and parachurch ministries
- Draws upon proven programs, curricula, and other resources available from across the broader body of Christ
- Functions like a missions agency more than a regulatory agency