

New Wineskins A Vision for the 21st Century

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.

“It is time for a change. A small tinkering will not do. It is time for a radical new reinvention of the denomination. The 21st century denomination will function as a servant to its pastors, its lay leaders and its congregations.”

Clark Cowden, “Envisioning a 21st Century Denomination”