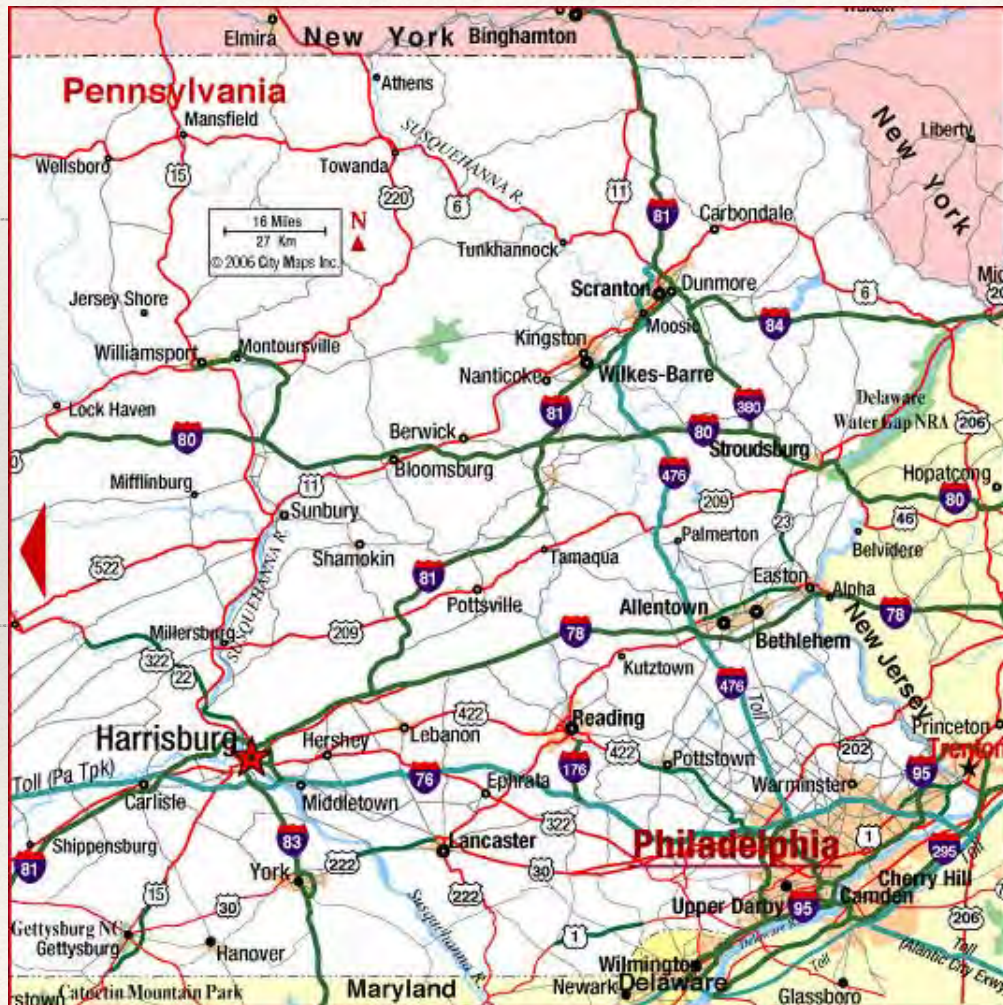


Off the map...



Learning and Leading
in Uncharted Territory

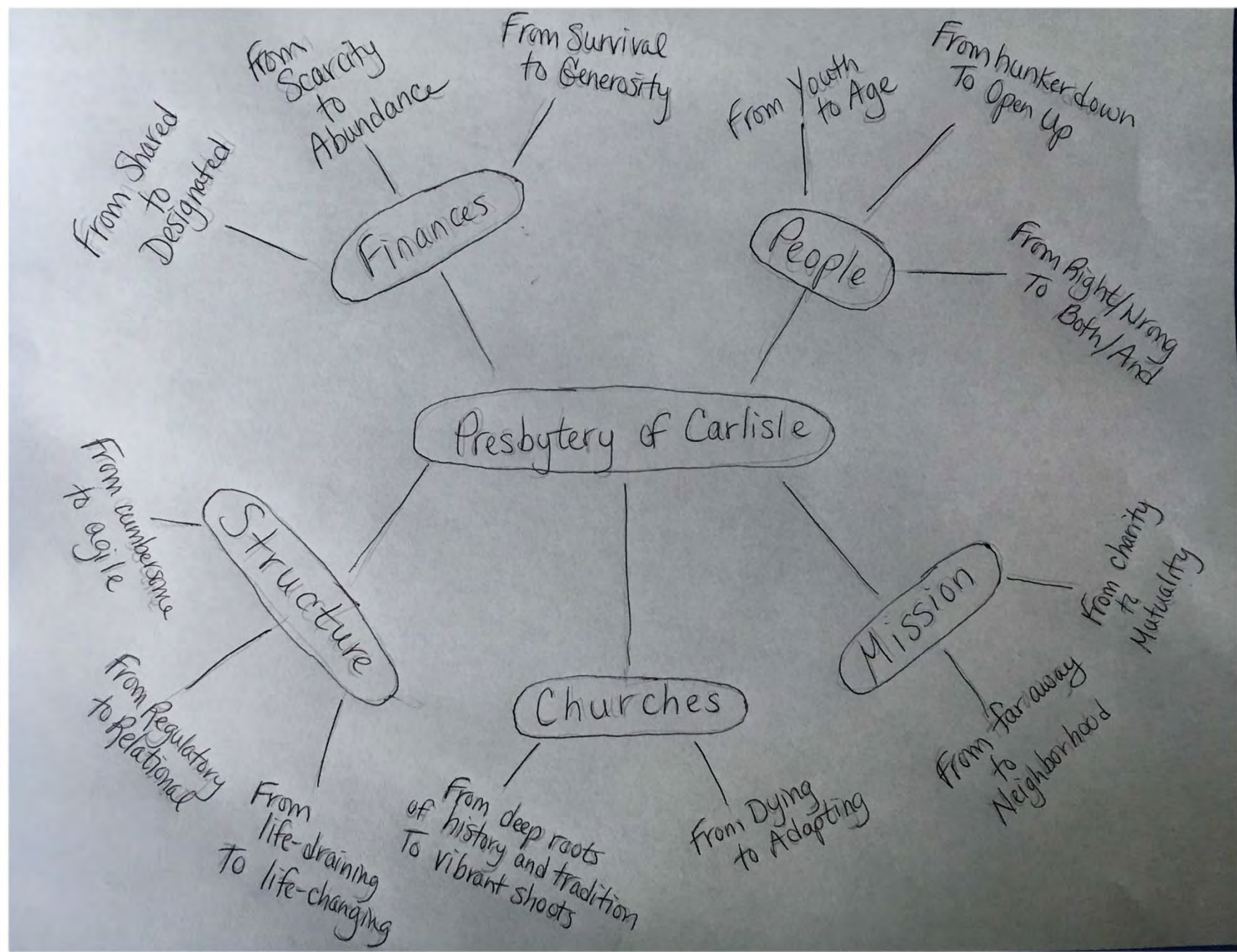


“Structures that nourished, supported, and encouraged Christian belonging and identity for generations are disintegrating in a 21st century world of choice, fluidity, and insecurity.”

*Dwight Zscheile, **The Agile Church***

“The world in front of you is nothing
like the world behind you.”

*Tod Bolsinger, **Canoeing the Mountains***



Discuss in groups of 3 or 4

- ❖ **What evokes a strong reaction in you?**
- ❖ **What emotions do you feel as you consider these changes?**
- ❖ **In what ways have you been prepared to lead in this changing world? What makes you feel ill-equipped?**

“We are experienced river rafters
who must learn to be
mountaineers.

And some of us face the most
terrible mountains
we’ve ever beheld.”

*-Tod Bolsinger, **Canoeing the Mountains***

- ❖ **A culture that is hostile/indifferent to Christianity**
- ❖ **Volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous world**
- ❖ **Default emphasis on individualism**
- ❖ **Rise of digital age**
- ❖ **Families scattered; changes in patterns of marriage**
- ❖ **Identities shaped by brands (influence of marketers)**
- ❖ **Shift toward service and information economy (off-shoring, downsizing, outsourcing)**
- ❖ **Four-fold crisis: economic, environmental, socio-political, religious/spiritual**
- ❖ **Changing demographics**
- ❖ **Proliferation of choices, for those who have means**







“Could it be that God is taking our churches into uncharted territory in order for the church to become even more of a witness for the future of the world?”

—*Tod Bolsinger, **Canoeing the Mountains***

Coddiwhompling

“traveling in a purposeful manner towards a vague destination.”

-Oxford Dictionary Forum

Purposeful movement

- ❖ **The stone of learning**
- ❖ **The stone of imagining**
- ❖ **The stone of partnering...with creativity & resourcefulness**
- ❖ **The stone of listening, especially at the margins**
- ❖ **The Ebenezer stone**

Discuss in groups of 3 or 4

- ❖ **Where do you find comfort? - Describe the places, settings and people that help you feel safe, loved, at home.**
- ❖ **Describe a time you found courage, resilience, and/or a compelling sense of God's call that made it possible for you to risk.**

The Courage
To
Say YES!



The courage to say yes...

- ❖ **Take a risk and lead the big adventure of facing and navigating the challenges of a changing world**
- ❖ **Stop looking back. Notice where you are. Identify your core convictions. Let go of default actions that keep your church from effective mission today.**
- ❖ **Learn a new way of leading that begins with your own transformation.**

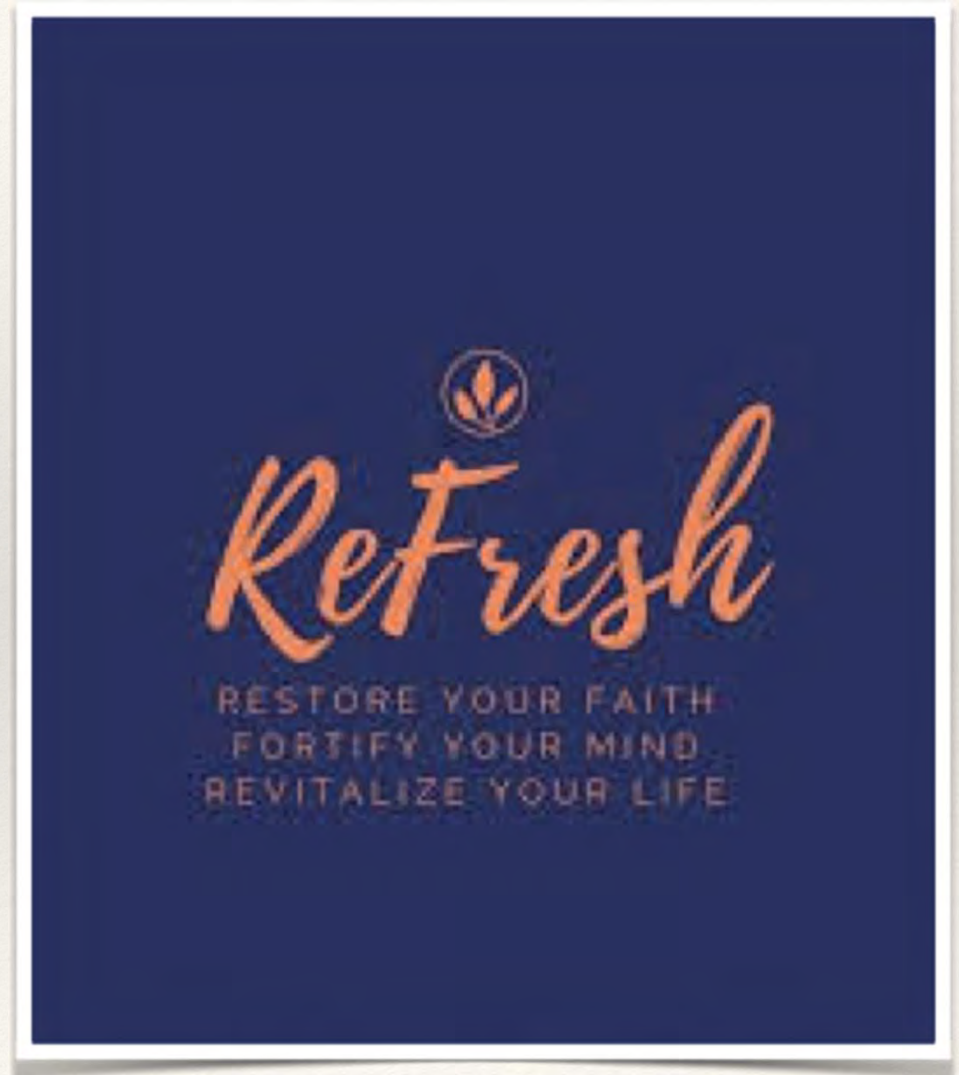
Now what?

- ❖ ***The Agile Church***, by Dwight Zscheile
- ❖ ***Canoeing the Mountains***, by Tod Bolsinger
- ❖ ***Neighborhood Church***, by Krin Van Tatenhove & Rob Mueller

Read. Talk with others. Pray. Open your heart.

REFRESH

- ❖ New Tools for leading in uncharted territory
- ❖ New and renewed relationships
- ❖ September 28th, Mechanicsburg Church



“I don’t know what to do and
maybe, just maybe,
no one knows
what to do.”

—*Tod Bolsinger, **Canoeing the Mountains***

“Remember! We are people of resurrection. There’s lots of room for God to show off here!”

–Heidi Husted Armstrong

Transition Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Seattle