

Session 1: History and Culture of ECO

1. **History and purpose of renewal emphasis in the PC(USA)**

2. **Shift in focus on ministry:**

Jim Collins' "Preserve the Core and Simulate Progress"

3. **What is "core" to ECO?**

a. Theological understanding of the authority of Scripture

- i. Scripture should change us. We should not change Scripture.
- ii. The centrality of the work of Jesus for salvation
- iii. Submission to God's desire for our behavior

b. Being a connectional and covenantal denomination

- i. Reclaiming the connectional nature of being Presbyterian
- ii. Every pastor is required to be in a Pastor Covenant Group (PCG)
- iii. Every congregation is required to be in a Mission Affinity Group (MAG)

c. The totality of Jesus' mission

- i. We need to meet physical and tangible needs
- ii. We need to work for human reconciliation
- iii. We need to seek to bring people to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior

4. **What is progress for ECO?**

- a. Flexibility in governing to determine what is best in a particular situation
- b. Understanding of micro-expressions of church outside of regular corporate worship
- c. Emphasis on church planting
- d. Rethinking leadership development

Reflection Questions:

- 1. After listening to the video, how do you see the birth of ECO as a natural outgrowth of 20 years of seeking renewal within the PC(USA)?
- 2. In what ways do you resonate with our descriptions of what is core and what is progress?
- 3. What questions or concerns arise when you think of our understanding of core and progress?
- 4. How is our understanding of core and progress different from your current environment?
- 5. How can our understanding of core and progress enhance your ministry?