

NEXT CHURCH

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



sparkling imaginations, connecting congregations, offering a distinctly Presbyterian witness to Jesus Christ

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2016 BY THE NUMBERS

366 days (leap year!)

587 people attended our National Gathering

666 users watched our live stream during the National Gathering

590 people joined us for a regional gathering or conference

477 individuals participated in our listening campaign

32,882 users visited our newly redesigned website

111 people subscribed to our blog (bringing us to 513 subscribers)

603 people signed up to receive our emails (bringing us to 2,790 subscribers)

WHAT IS NEXT CHURCH?

NEXT Church is building a relational community of Presbyterian leaders – pastors, elders, church members, youth leaders, seminarians – who believe a vibrant and thriving church shares the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that transform individual disciples and the communities in which we live and around the world. Over seven years we have grown from a conversation to a movement that is known in the denomination for creating a new kind of connection. We are clear-eyed about the challenges facing our congregations and leaders, but trust deeply that God’s Spirit is at work among us and inviting us into a new future with hope.



This is a time in which we need a strong relational fabric within our church so that our congregations are strong and healthy enough to be a sustained, effective, and moral voice that is engaged in the transformation of our communities. Going forward, we see this work coalescing in three main areas – leadership development, equipping and strengthening congregations, and engaging in systemic work to strengthen our denominational connections.

2016 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS

NATIONAL GATHERING

Our national gathering in Atlanta was our best yet. We welcomed 587 people to First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and 666 more online. We learned from Bob Lupton about “toxic charity” and rethinking mission for the dignity of others. We were inspired by Allan Boesak’s challenge to actively engage in reconciling work in our own communities. We were moved by Alison Harrington’s congregation providing sanctuary for immigrants in Arizona. Theresa Latini invited us to confront the “enemy images” we create to clear space for new possibilities for empathy. Andrew Foster Connors and leaders in Baltimore called us to build relational networks to confront the power in our communities for the common good.



We are looking forward to our **2017 National Gathering**, March 13–15 in Kansas City, where we’ll explore **Wells & Walls: Well-Being in a Thirsty World**.

2016 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS

REDESIGNED NEXTCHURCH.NET

Our online presence is robust with engaging, topical blog series, including themes like:

- reflections on bridging those things that divide us
- faith and vocation outside of the church
- practicing a “physical faith”
- evangelism in the 21st century
- a video blog series called “The NEXT Few Minutes”



This year, we redesigned our website (and our overall brand), which now features resources for liturgy, community organizing and much more to support the creative practice of ministry.

We continue to offer periodic online Church Leader’s Roundtables to share ideas for ministry.

2016 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS

NEW PASTOR SUPPORT

We are working hard to support the next generation of pastors. This year we saw the fruit of several significant partnerships. Along with the Board of Pensions, we developed a website (nextconnectpcusa.org) to support new pastors in holistic health in ministry. We partnered widely to offer Trent@Montreat, a week-long conference to work closely with new pastors to develop and strengthen their practice of ministry. We supported 47 seminarians in attendance at our national gatherings and hosted a gathering particularly for student-leaders.



LISTENING CAMPAIGN

In the winter of 2016, we held a denomination-wide listening campaign on transformational mission. The campaign modeled a new relational tool for strengthening connections across the denomination and creating a way in which to gather the church. We held 47 sessions with 477 people. Participants enjoyed the conversations and were energized by connections and ideas from sister congregations.

2016 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS

LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY METRICS

We have a team at work on Mindful Ministry: Leadership Accountability for a New Day — a grant-funded project looking at how we assess success in ministry. While there is growing consensus across the church that our traditional measures of a church's success (membership, buildings, and budgets) are inadequate to the task of evaluating ministry in the 21st century, there is little to no agreement on what we should be measuring. With the sponsorship of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and Leadership Education of Duke Divinity School, NEXT Church has convened a team that is spending eighteen months delving into this question and will emerge with a resource to help local congregations evaluate their own ministries and offer tools to evaluate as they offer resources and support to ministries beyond their own congregation.



LEADERSHIP

STRATEGY TEAM

CLASS OF 2017

Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Fourth Presbyterian (Chicago, IL)
Rev. Tom Are (Treasurer), Village Presbyterian (Prairie Village, KS)*
Rev. Karen Sapio (Co-Chair), Claremont Presbyterian (Claremont, CA)*
Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes, Ginter Park Presbyterian (Richmond, VA)
Rev. Jackie Saxon, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX)
Rev. Glen Bell, First Presbyterian (Sarasota, FL)*
Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, Providence Presbyterian (Providence, RI)*
Rev. Lori Raible (Co-Chair), Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)*
Rev. Denise Anderson, Unity Presbyterian (Temple Hills, MD)

CLASS OF 2018

Rev. John Wilkinson, Third Presbyterian (Rochester, NY)
Rev. Tasha Hicks McCray, Mount View Presbyterian (Seattle, WA)
Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, Trinity Presbyterian (Herndon, VA)
Rev. Andrew Foster Connors, Brown Memorial Park Ave Presbyterian (Baltimore, MD)*
Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana, National Capital Presbytery (Reston, VA)
Ms. Susan Thornton, St. Mark Presbyterian (Newport Beach, CA)
Mr. Joel Schultze, Westminster Presbyterian (Grand Rapids, MI)
Rev. Meghan Gage-Finn, Westminster Presbyterian (Minneapolis, MN)
Ms. Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun (Irving, TX)

CLASS OF 2019

Rev. Adam Fronczek, Knox Presbyterian (Cincinnati, OH)
Mr. William Rikard, First Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Rev. Paul Roberts, Johnson C. Smith Seminary (Atlanta, GA)
Rev. Laura Cheifetz, Presbyterian Publishing Corp (Louisville, KY)
Ms. Sarang Kang, Christian Educator (Texarkana, AR)
Rev. Bertram Johnson, Riverside Church (New York, NY)
Mr. Tanner Pickett, Montreat Conference Center (Montreat, NC)

* denotes member of the executive team

STAFF

Rev. Jessica Tate, Director
Linda Kurtz, Communications Specialist
Angela Williams and Sarah Dianne Jones, Young Adult Volunteers

LEADERSHIP

ADVISORY TEAM

CLASS OF 2017

Dr. Stacy Johnson, Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, NJ)
Ms. Suzanne Davis, Hopewell Presbyterian (Huntersville, NC)
Rev. Anna Pinckney Straight, Old Stone Presbyterian (Lewisburg, WV)
Rev. Steve Lindsley, Trinity Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Rev. Leslie King, First Presbyterian (Waco, TX)
Rev. Karen Chakoian, First Presbyterian (Granville, OH)
Rev. Carol McDonald, Synod of Lincoln Trails (Indianapolis, IN)
Rev. Lewis Galloway, Second Presbyterian (Indianapolis, IN)
Rev. Christopher Edmonston, White Memorial Presbyterian (Raleigh, NC)
Rev. Charlene Han Powell, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian (New York, NY)
Rev. Kathryn Johnston, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian (Mechanicsburg, PA)

CLASS OF 2018

Rev. Fairfax Fair, First Presbyterian (Ann Arbor, MI)
Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen, Westminster Presbyterian (Minneapolis, MN)
Rev. Susan DeWyngaert, Woods Memorial Presbyterian (Severna Park, MD)
Rev. Erin Keys, First Presbyterian (Greenwich, CT)
Mr. Gilmour Lake, Highland Presbyterian (Winston Salem, NC)
Rev. Tony Sundermeier, First Presbyterian (Atlanta, GA)
Rev. Jody Welker, Kirk of Kildaire (Cary, NC)

CLASS OF 2019

Ms. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Liturgical Artist (Black Mountain, NC)
Rev. Mark Davis, St. Mark Presbyterian (Newport Beach, CA)
Rev. Christopher Henry, Shallowford Presbyterian (Atlanta, GA)
Rev. Ken Evers-Hood, Tualatin Presbyterian (Tualatin, OR)
Rev. Chad Herring, John Knox Kirk (Kansas City, MO)
Rev. Mindy Douglas, First Presbyterian (Durham, NC)
Rev. Jeff Krehbiel, Church of the Pilgrims (Washington, DC)
Rev. Edwin Estevez, Riverfront Church (Wilmington, DE)
Rev. Amaury Tañon-Santos, Synod of the Northeast (Plainfield, NJ)
Rev. Joe Clifford, Myers Park Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy, Chestnut Street Presbyterian (Wilmington, NC)

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CONGREGATIONS

Berwyn Presbyterian, Black Mountain Presbyterian, Brown Memorial Park Ave Presbyterian, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, Burke Presbyterian, Christ Presbyterian, Church of the Pilgrims, Claremont Presbyterian, Elkton Presbyterian, First Presbyterian (Atlanta), First Presbyterian (Dallas), First Presbyterian (Durham), First Presbyterian (Lake Forest), First Presbyterian (Monroe), First Presbyterian (Northport), First Presbyterian (Sarasota), First Presbyterian (Stamford), First Presbyterian (Statesboro), First Presbyterian (Waco), Fourth Presbyterian (Chicago), Georgetown Presbyterian, Ginter Park Presbyterian, Great Falls Presbyterian, Hebron Presbyterian, Idylwood Presbyterian, John Knox Kirk, Knox Presbyterian, Myers Park Presbyterian, Plaza Presbyterian, Presbyterian Foundation, Presbytery of West Virginia, Second Presbyterian (Indianapolis), Shallowford Presbyterian, St. Mark Presbyterian, St. Philip Presbyterian, Synod of the Sun, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Third Presbyterian (Rochester), University Presbyterian (Chapel Hill), Village Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian (Durham), Westminster Presbyterian (Grand Rapids), Westminster Presbyterian (Minneapolis), Westminster Presbyterian (Portland), White Memorial Presbyterian

THANK YOU

With your support, NEXT Church will continue in 2017 to strengthen the relational fabric of the church so that our congregations are strong and healthy enough to be a sustained, effective, and moral voice that is engaged in the transformation of individuals and our communities for the common good.

Thank you.



CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

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www.nextchurch.net

You can also send a check to
Village Church (“NEXT Church” in the memo line) at:

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Prairie Village, KS 66208



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