

Church Revitalization & Development

- The Committee hosted the Transformation Conference with Rev. Dr. Ann Philbrick at First Presbyterian, Maysville, Friday, August 11. For follow-up a survey has been sent to all participants in hopes of gleaned valuable information for planning of future events.
- We met on Thursday, August 31, to solidify the purpose of the committee, focusing on “Revitalization”. Our plans are to continue with revitalization and then explore the possibilities of development within the Presbytery.
- The CRD committee will be offering “The Missional Church - Simple Conference” with Ray Jones, March 16-17, 2018, First Presbyterian Church, Winchester; Rev. Ryan Bradney, pastor.
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arxflK_sd68 - Video

NOTE: The CRD team is diligently seeking God’s unique call for this presbytery-based ministry. We meet to ready ourselves, and future teammates, and to be assets to the revitalization or the creation of new worshipping communities. We seek the Holy Spirit for direction, wisdom and confirmation and are keenly aware our experiences, passions and endeavors are for naught without God’s guidance.

The CRD team is ardent about being “a”, and not “the” resource for the presbytery.

- The following is a synopsis of who we are and what we are striving to undertake:
- *The Why of Our Existence*

As Presbyterians, we believe the church is reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God, who is Jesus Christ. That means the why, following Jesus, of our ministries is permanent. But, the how, exactly what we do to serve, are not permanent fixtures but nimble service projects that we continually subject to the leading of the Spirit. It may be that we are exactly where Christ would have us be as churches – but faithful discipleship includes making sure that is the case as we grow in faith, love and hope ourselves, grow in our relationship with Christ, year after year. We also believe the Holy Spirit is the one who shows us what God would have us be and do in our specific time and place to serve God’s people, who are, of course, everyone. But we cannot serve people in general. Churches are called to discern the Spirit’s direction as to whom they are called to minister within their unique communities. Our team has access to resources that provide churches tools to use in opening themselves to God’s leading wherever they may be in their natural life cycle, whether they are a church plant, a flourishing congregation wanting to make sure it is maximizing its impact in its community, or a church searching for renewed purpose.

CRD Purposes to come alongside leaders and congregations through:

- **Revitalizing** “new” life and strength into current ministries.
- **Developing** missional opportunities through existing worshipping communities or “new” communities.

Common Questions for Developing Communities:

1. How can we focus on following Jesus faithfully *if* our church buildings are falling apart? Or our worship or community life no longer seems to inspire?
2. How do we ensure we are following the Spirit’s instructions for *being* Christ’s church in the present?
3. Are we the leaders who long to make a bold decision about the direction of our church’s ministry but are not sure where to begin?

You Are Not Alone!

The Presbytery of Transylvania's Church Revitalization & Development team is willing and able to support and come alongside your church's leadership. We will respond if you believe it is important to assess whether your congregation is ready to ask and answer those questions!

What The CRD Team Has To Offer... Revitalization through Resourcing

Assessments:

New Beginnings <http://www.hopepmt.org/transform/new-beginnings/the-new-beginnings-process/>

Offering churches an initial framework for decision making with respect to discerning its current mission in its community.

NOTE: Once there is a decision, the CRD team will come alongside pastors, church leaders and congregants who have chosen to seek the Spirit's input into the future of their ministries. By using this and/or other assessments we will provide support with the implementation.

Holy Cow Consulting Firm: <https://holycowconsulting.blog/tag/congregation-assessment-tool-cat/>

When congregations do not have the leadership to initiate and to complete an assessment process.

Holy Conversations (paperback); Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations.

By: Gil Rendle.

Transforming Church: Bringing Out the Good to Get to Great (paperback) by: Kevin Ford

Written & Video Stories

(Success stories via the written, video, social media)

Examples of How Churches in Our Presbytery Are Responding to God's Leading

1. Testimonies from churches who are tapping into Holy Spirit led new or revitalized ministries.
2. Testimonies from churches that have completed *New Beginnings* or other assessments.
3. Periodic updates to the presbytery as congregations move forward inspiring the presbytery to pray for these new ideas and possibly provide available resources.
4. Website links to PCUSA resources on what other churches are doing as a result of New Beginnings; i.e. Arlington Presbyterian Church in Arlington Va.

Development

New Church Plants (worshipping communities)

We, as a committee, are processing the most effective avenues to begin new congregations.