

To: Transylvania Presbytery
From: Jim Dougans, Vice-Chair
Re: August 2019 Report of the Church Development and Revitalization Ministry

The Phila Group continues to meet with cohorts in the Presbytery. The Western Transylvania Cohort and the Lexington Cohort met during the first week in June. The subject was hospitality. The Western Transylvania Cohort brainstormed ideas such as notes in backpacks to shared nursing home visits to Ann's famous "just get off your butt and do something!" The Lexington Cohort developed these ideas: some conversations at the running store to some bridge parties to lemonade with school families in the parking lot to shared meals with VBS partners.

This summer the cohorts have been given two challenges by the Phila Group:

1. Invite someone you don't typically hang out with over for dinner/cookout. Preferably someone who doesn't attend your church. And enjoy an evening of good conversation and good food together.
2. Consider ways to corporately invite your congregation to participate in a summer experiment in hospitality. Perhaps you invite everyone in the congregation to participate in at least one act of hospitality. Or, perhaps there is a corporate experiment of hospitality you'd like to dream up and try this summer.

The Nicholasville Vision Team has also been in action, meeting three times this spring with the Phila Group. At the last meeting in early June the team continued to wrestle with "Who is Jesus?" and "What is Church?" in language that is non-churchy and yet clear. The team also considered "What is a disciple?" and "What is witness?" Finally, the team continued to think of needs and people God is placing on our hearts and to develop a brief outline of possible "business" plans to address that need (s).

The cohorts and the vision team will resume meeting in the fall.