

Church Development and Revitalization Ministry (CDRM)

2020 Annual Report

November 6, 2020

Chair Jim Dougans, CLP, Maysville-First

The CDRM exists to work with current churches engaging in revitalization and transformation efforts and to promote and encourage the development of new worshipping communities.

Added Members

During 2020 the Ministry kept the existing members Karen Hartsfield, Ryan Bradney, and myself, and added three new members: Lisa Culpepper, Linda Kurtz, and Michael Denney. General Presbyter Philip Lotspeich attends most meetings. Karen Hartsfield accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

Frequent Meetings

Ministry members met seven times in 2020 and will meet again on November 9. All of the meetings have taken place via Zoom.

Reading “Divergent Church”

Together we are reading *Divergent Church* by Shapiro and Faris. The authors present a year-long analysis of twelve worshipping communities in the U.S. and conclude that new churches will retain time-honored practices while adding new elements to what it means to be the church. We will finish reading this book in three months.

Surveyed Leaders

The Ministry surveyed leaders in the Presbytery using Survey Monkey, asking the question “How can the CDR Ministry best assist you?” We received over 20 responses, with the number one request being for “a list of church revitalization resources.”

Supported the Nicholasville Steering Committee

The CDRM continues to monitor and support the work of the Nicholasville Steering Committee.

Presbytery On-Line Church

CDRM members Karen Hartsfeld and Lisa Culpepper are coordinating monthly worship services for use by any church in the Presbytery. These services began in September 2020. Other leaders are recruited to participate. Matt Falco is putting each video together. The November 1, 2020 service will include communion.

Providing Resources to Address Church Needs

Members of the Ministry facilitated a discussion on July 15 during the pastor's zoom meeting. We asked these questions:

- How our churches are managing thus far with their adjustments?
- What problems or challenges they are encountering?
- What positive growth (spiritual and virtual reach) they are experiencing?

We found that “overall pastors are confident about the direction their churches are taking, whether in-person or on-line.” We also found that “pastors are tired.”

Coming in 2021:

- Help churches in the Presbytery solidify the gains they have made.
- Make resources available.