

Revitalization Vision

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
See, the home of God is among mortals...See, I am making all things new.*

*Isaiah 43:19
1 Corinthians 3:16
Revelation 21: 3,5*

Vision:

By the power of the Holy Spirit, and in authentic relationships with mid-councils, we seek to equip, nurture, and support church leaders to empower their congregations to renew, recover, and live more fully into faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Revitalization Initiative is to work alongside leaders of existing congregations continually assessing, discerning, and living into faithful actions that increase vitality through intentional spiritual practices that take them deeper into following Jesus Christ, so that their own lives are changed, congregations are transformed, and the mission of God spreads throughout particular communities and the world.

Values:

- Courage, Conviction, & Commitment to faithful discipleship
- Prayerful discernment
- Reliance upon Scripture
- Persistence - emboldened/enacted faith
- Honest Assessment
- Resilience
- Intentional pursuits of reconciliation
- Hopefulness in change

What we believe:

- A necessary re-turn to God and re-forming of God's people.
- A crucial time of awakening throughout our neighborhoods, nation, and world
- The Holy Spirit's power is changing, re-forming, revitalizing the Church
- Necessary to rediscover faithful discipleship in 21st century context
- God is calling Church to transform & transcend cultures and contexts
- Move from inward institutions to neighborhood relationships & mission

What this is:

The hope is this is the beginning of intentional, authentic relationships between the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Agency and Mid-Council leaders and pastors to:

- Come together as the people of God
- Pray: re-turn to faithfulness in God
- Inspire openness to the Holy Spirit's transformation/change
- Honestly assess, discern, and act
- Resource, Equip, & Support leaders and pastors
- Practice missional evangelism & faithful discipleship
- Equip vital congregations and develop a praxis of sustainability & ongoing assessment
- Capture congregational stories & develop new measurements of vitality

What this is NOT:

- This is not a universal program instructing churches and assuring vitality and sustainable life.
- Another plan that promises immediate fix.
- A guarantee of revitalization for every congregation
- An attempt for the PC(USA) to tell churches what to do
- Institutional survival guide for membership numbers and buildings
- An encouragement to tweak, yet remain the same
- A return to glory days gone by, nor a guidebook on calling the young pastor

Overview: The Revitalization Initiative is a two-year covenant relationship between Presbyteries and the PC(USA) to prayerfully walk with pastors and existing congregations in intentional efforts of revitalization. Year I builds authentic relationships of faith. Churches will embark on an honest assessment, capturing their unique stories, confessing their realities, and discerning the Spirit's call to action. From 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality, churches will determine a course between 3-Actions: *1) Re-forming churches – re-envision & change how we are church together through the 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality, 2) Missional Clustering churches – revitalization by clustering congregations into new communities of worship & ministry, 3) Death and Resurrection churches – revitalizing by grace and gratitude in the death and legacy of a congregation, in witness to the resurrection.* Year II is about joining Christ in the new thing taking place, allowing the wonder of God to transform, and faithfully living into change. Through 7 Marks & 3-Actions, we pray God will revitalize the church in missional action and faithful discipleship in Jesus Christ throughout our neighborhoods, our nation, and the world.

- Year 1: Relational: Authentic Relationships & The Honest Assessment & Discernment of Congregations
- Year 2: Incarnational: Revitalizing Church in 3-Actions: Re-forming, Missional Clustering, Death & Resurrection