

Vital Congregations and the Presbytery of Philadelphia

Vital Congregations Facilitators Virtual Training

July 21-22, 2020

featuring Danny Murphy, Phyllis Sanders, Michael Gehrling, and Brian Frick

National Virtual Gathering of Participating Congregations

August 18-20, 2020

featuring Bill Brown and Tod Bolsinger

Role of the Vital Congregation's Discernment Team (VCDT):

- Courtenay Willcox (Moderator of the VCDT)
- Rev. Su Fall
- Rev. Anna Grant-Borden
- Rev. Chris Holland
- Frank Orzechoski
- Rev. Kris Schondelmeyer

to support churches embarking on the Vital Congregations journey. We come alongside you and your Vital Congregations team, in a contextual and relational way, as you seek to discern where and how God is calling you into the next season of ministry and expression of the gospel in your neighborhood and community. The VCDT's primary focus is to be familiar with the content of the initiative so we may ensure that we, as a presbytery, are providing the appropriate framework of support to pastors and their congregations. We want to connect with participating churches, and to pray for this venture as we lean into the Spirit's transformational opportunities over the next two years and beyond.

- Bensalem—Pastor: Rev. Ken Wonderland, Liaison: Su Fall
- Crossroads—Pastor: Rev. Brenton Thompson, Liaison: Frank Orzechoski
- Elkins Park—Pastor: Rev. Cynthia Betz-Bogoly, Liaison: Kris Schondelmeyer
- Glading Memorial—Pastor: Rev. Samantha Sale-Hudson, Liaison: Courtenay Willcox
- Holy Trinity Bethlehem—Pastor: Rev. Greg Terry, Liaison: Chris Holland
- Levittown—Pastor: Rev. Deborah Heffernan, Liaison: Su Fall
- Mt. Airy—Pastor: Rev. Anna Grant-Borden, Liaison: Chris Holland
- Olivet Covenant—Pastor: Peter Ahn, Liaison: Courtenay Willcox
- Summit—Pastor: Cheryl Pynch, Liaison: Anna Grant-Borden
- Warminster—Pastor: Mindy Campbell, Liaison: Kris Schondelmeyer

Role of Facilitators, Revs. Ryan Balsan and Carla Jones Brown: to help mid-council leaders and pastors address the discerning needs of participating congregations, offer pastoral support and compassion in change during actions of revitalization, and empower their pastoral and lay leaders to discern how they might follow Jesus as faithful disciples and lean into what ministry might look like in their given congregational and neighborhood context. Their gifts are in coaching, sharing, assisting, asking, mediating, facilitating, and engaging as partners in this shared venture.

Resources and information for Vital Congregations' churches to disseminate and explore before the January launch:

Presbytery of Philadelphia website links:

<https://presbyphl.org/ministry-incubator/vital-congregations/>

Weekly Wednesday Zoom Gatherings – these are for anyone and everyone in your churches and will resume, Wednesday, May 27th

- Wednesday, May 27th, with our special Guest Diane Givens Moffett – president of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- Wednesday, June 3rd – our special guest will be J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk
- Wednesday, June 10th - @ 5:00pm (EST) we will have a special worship service of Lament with special guest David Gambrell and Denise Anderson

Like Vital Congregations Initiative on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAVitalCongregations/>

Link for Vital Congregations A Handbook to Preparation:

<https://presbyphl.org/ministry-incubator/vital-congregations/>

Links for Vital Congregations Toolkit and Manual:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/resources-from-the-office-of-vital-congregations/>

Zoom/Facebook LIVE calls on the 7 Marks of Vitality (recorded sessions can be found at this link): <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/office-of-vital-congregations-hosting-weekly-zoom-conversations-through-may-6/>

1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism
3. Outward Incarnational Focus
4. Empower Servant Leadership
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship
6. Caring Relationships
7. Ecclesial Health

What can you do right now? Here are a few possibilities:

- Sermon Series on the Marks of Vitality
- Small group conversations on related topics
- Seven Marks Bible study (see Vital Congregations Toolkit)
- Vital Congregations 7 Marks Video, Initiative Digital Series: For Such a Time as This: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/digital-series-for-such-a-time-as-this/>
- Vital Congregations Prayer Card:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/06lowpamz3x572b/AABIkHnC1loe9Rix32Ve2F7ca/Resources?dl=0&preview=Vital+Congregations+Prayer+Card.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=1
- Vital Congregations Postcard:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/06lowpamz3x572b/AABIkHnC1loe9Rix32Ve2F7ca/Resources?dl=0&preview=Vital+Congregations+Postcard.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=1
- Vital Congregations Prayers and Activities:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/06lowpamz3x572b/AABIkHnC1loe9Rix32Ve2F7ca/Resources?dl=0&preview=Vital+Congregations-Prayers+and+Activities.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=1