



## Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

October 2018

Dear Pastors, Elders, and Congregational Leaders,

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill led four workshops regarding the *Vital Congregations Initiative* at the recent Presbytery of Lake Michigan Retreat. Many of those who attended were excited by the possibility of their congregation becoming involved with this initiative.

The purpose of the *Vital Congregations Initiative* is to work alongside mid council leadership, and leaders of existing congregations, in a process that seeks to help assess, discern and live into transformative actions that increase vitality. Through intentional spiritual practices and relational connections, this two-year process takes us deeper into following Jesus Christ, making disciples and being the vital community of Christ throughout communities and the world.

- Year One seeks to (re)build authentic relationships of faith. Churches will use the “Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation” to embark on a year of honest assessment and discernment.
- Year Two focuses on revitalizing the church through three actions: Re-forming, Missional Clustering, Death and Resurrection.

Presbytery of Lake Michigan’s Leadership Team included the vision of working with the *Vital Congregations Initiative* as a priority for its recently adopted Strategic Ministry Plan.

The investment of each congregation will be through: prayer, reflection on the Scripture, commitment to faithful discipleship, honest assessment, and openness to and hope for change. The Presbytery is not asking for a specific up-front financial commitment from each congregation. Instead, we ask that after eight months of participation your Session makes a gift to the Presbytery to offset some expenses incurred for your congregation’s participation. We trust this gift will partially reflect the benefit your congregation has derived from this initiative.

Those looking to find more information about the *Vital Congregations Initiatives* are invited to go to: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations)

The PC(USA) *Vital Congregations Initiative* will select 20 Presbyteries with whom they will enter the two-year covenant. The deadline for the Presbyteries to submit applications for the program is November 1, 2018. Selection will be made by February 1, 2019.

Please note that this application to be one of 20 presbyteries participating in the initiative MUST be submitted by Presbytery leaders and NOT individual congregations.

As part of this process, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan needs to know how many of our congregations wish to enter this intentional alliance.

**If your congregation is interested, please fill out the attached “Intent to Participate” form and return it to the Rev. Cal Bremer, Presbytery Transitional Co-Leader, by October 28, 2018.** You may send it to his attention at 1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002 or via an e-mail to [cbremer@lakemichiganpresbytery.org](mailto:cbremer@lakemichiganpresbytery.org).

Feel free to contact Cal via email or a call to either the Presbytery office (269) 381-6337 or his cell phone (616) 401-2834.

Rev. Calvin Bremer  
Presbytery Transitional Co-Leader

Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence  
Presbytery Transitional Co-Leader



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Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.]

### Intent to Participate Vital Congregations Initiative

Name of Congregation/Worshipping Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Village: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Active Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members you expect to participate in this Initiative: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the level of interest in revitalization in your congregation/worshipping community.

Is your congregation/worshipping community willing to invest the human resources and commit time and activity for this two-year initiative?     Yes     No

Any caveats?

What steps have you taken to share the vision of revitalization with your congregation/worshipping community?

Is there anything else we should know about your congregation/worshipping community?

Name of Person completing application: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

Signature of Person filling out this application: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form by October 28, 2018 to the Rev. Cal Bremer, transitional co-leader), via mail to 1511 Helen Avenue, Portage, MI 49002 or e-mail to [cbremer@lakemichiganpresbytery.org](mailto:cbremer@lakemichiganpresbytery.org)  
Feel free to attach additional information or pages as you answer any of the above questions.