

# INVITATION TO A JOURNEY

*A missional transformation process with the congregations of  
the Presbytery of Wabash Valley*

Presentation to the Session  
of

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Church Name & City

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Date



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## SO, WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?

**Romans 12:1 – 2** (From Eugene Peterson's *The Message*)

“So here’s what I want you to do,  
God helping you:

Take your everyday, ordinary life—  
your sleeping, eating, going-to-work,  
and walking-around life—  
and place it before God as an offering.

Embracing what God does for you  
is the best thing you can do for God.

Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture  
that you fit into it without even thinking.  
Instead, fix your attention on God.  
You’ll be changed from the inside out.

Readily recognize what God wants from you,  
and quickly respond to it.  
Unlike the culture around you,  
always dragging you down to its level of immaturity,  
God brings the best out of you,  
develops well-formed maturity in you.”

1. The word Peterson translates above as “changed from the inside out” is found only twice in the New Testament—here and in the Gospels describing Jesus’ transfiguration.
2. It is the same word from which we get our word “metamorphosis,” change so substantial (like caterpillar to butterfly) that the end result is hardly recognizable as the same person or entity as its beginning!

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# **ACTION ITEM FOR PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY**

**Presbytery of Wabash Valley  
September 19, 2009**

**Presented by** Reverend Gretchen Sidler-Gibbs **on behalf of** Missional Transformation Coordinating Team as a:

- Recommendation** (Approved by Council at its date meeting)
- Proposal** (if it has not been approved by a Ministry Team, and, therefore, requires a second from the floor).

## **ACTION**

That the PWV embrace, support and participate in a presbytery-wide missional transformation process through the Center for Parish Development, Chicago.

## **RATIONALE FOR ACTION**

The Center for Parish Development has successful experience guiding other presbyteries, congregations and clusters of congregations in the PC (USA) as well as numerous other Christian denominations throughout the country. For almost a year, and most recently through its work with our Missional Transformation Coordinating Team, we have already benefited from its gifted staff, its proximity to PWV, the consistent accessibility when questions arise, and its excellent resource materials.

They bring an effective process and framework for our work together, sensitive to our Reformed Tradition, focused in Biblical study and prayer, and allowing each congregation to address its unique context and faith journey. There is an eagerness among our congregations to engage in a shared experience of discerning what new future God is calling PWV and its congregations to embrace. The timing is right and we have the resources to invest in such a positive effort.

## **OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION**

We would officially launch this 3-year process in January 2010; some congregations may complete the process in less time. The total cost will not exceed \$124,000 spread over the three years which includes 10% contingency. Our 2010 Mission Budget already includes the \$50,000 for 2010. Year 2 = \$36,000; year 3 = \$23,000. The presbytery as well as participating congregations will be asked to contribute financially to support this significant effort.

# **TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS TOWARD MISSION**

**Presbytery of Wabash Valley Assembly**

**Fall 2009**

## **God Has a Mission in the World; God's Mission Needs a Church!**

- Indiana is mission territory
- Presbyterian Churches have something important to contribute
- Greatest challenge for the Church today is to live missionally

## **The scenario before us:**

- PWV adopts a presbytery-wide strategy for congregational transformation
- PWV contracts with the Center for Parish Development, Chicago
- With the Center, PWV will identify through invitation and education a “first wave” of congregations (about 25) to participate in the transformation process

## **Goals of the strategy:**

### **1. Leadership Development**

- a. Equip pastors, CLPs, elders and other key leaders to guide and support congregations throughout PWV in a concerted transformation process
- b. Secure and equip coaches to assist congregations and their leaders as we move through the process together

### **2. Congregational Partnerships (with PWV & other congregations)**

- a. Help congregations and leaders break out of the sense of isolation and aloneness that inhibits learning and change
- b. Strengthen relationships and leverage resources among congregations across & throughout PWV
- c. Develop a strategy to support on-going transformation: This is not a one-time effort, but an on-going process!
- d. Network of coaches will continue to assist congregations

## **This transformational journey is:**

- Participatory
- Missional
- Strategic
- Rewarding

## **Stages of the journey:**

- Discovering
- Discerning
- Embodying

## **Benefits to congregations and presbytery:**

- Renewed spiritual life
- Community that lives as committed disciples
- People no longer content to be consumers only
- Increased clarity of purpose
- Greater sense of trust and unity
- More participation in leadership
- Organized to move into God's mission

## **How it works:**

- 1. Significant education/training provided and shared**
  - a. Six (6) Cluster workshops** for leaders and coordinating teams from each participating congregation.
  - b. Six (6) Pastor workshops** for pastors/CLPs of participating congregations, but open to all pastoral leaders in PWV.
  - c. Coaches' workshops** for those who will coach, guide, and support congregations (other than your own) in this process of growth, learning, and change.
- 2. Theologically and Biblically based study with prayer**
- 3. Cadre of missional coaches to support and guide congregations**
- 4. PWV Coordinating Team guides process and ensures effective resources and valuable communication**

## **What now?**

- 1. Four "Come & See" Workshops scheduled throughout the PWV.**
  - Locate flier ("How You Can Participate. . .")
  - Sign up for one of these introductory events for you and other key leaders from your congregation
- 2. Covenant to Participate**
- 3. Support and Encourage**



# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

The Presbytery of Wabash Valley creates, connects and nurtures congregations to fulfill Christ's mission.

*"Come and See"*

**ALL CHURCH LEADERS**

**PASTORS/CLPS**

**ELDERS**

**DEACONS**

**CLERKS OF SESSION**

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The **Journey of the People of God** is a process of congregational transformation that incorporates three phases of learning and activity for a congregation that are tailored to fit your congregation's life and local circumstances. The three phases of the **Journey** are the **Discovering, Discerning,** and **Embodying God's Mission.**

**"Come and see"** was the invitation of Jesus when two of John's disciples wanted to know where he was staying (John. 1:39). "Come and see" is also the invitation extended to all congregational leaders in our presbytery. So "Come and See" how a journey of missional transformation – into a future filled with hope – might be a gift to your congregation right now or in the future!

Yes I would like to attend a "Come and See" event to learn more about the transformation process.

Monday, October 26, 2009  
1st PC, Valparaiso  
6:30 - 8:45 pm (CT)

Wednesday, November 11, 2009  
Calvary PC, Logansport  
4:00 - 6:30 pm (ET)

Saturday, October 31, 2009  
Bethany PC, Lafayette  
10 am - 12:30 pm (ET)

Tuesday, November 17, 2009  
Peabody Retirement Community  
4:15 - 6:30 pm (ET)

Yes I am interested in learning more about serving as a coach for congregations in the transformation process.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_



## HOW YOUR CHURCH WILL BENEFIT

### *INVITATION TO A JOURNEY*

The Center for Parish Development—Page 29

- 
- Renewed spiritual life by discovering and experiencing anew what it means to be the church.
  - A community of Christ-followers, learning to live as committed disciples.
  - People no longer content simply to be consumers of a church's Sunday morning programs.
  - Increased excitement about and greater sharing of the Christian faith.
  - Increased clarity of purpose as a congregation.
  - A greater sense of trust and unity, pulling together toward common goals.
  - More responsive to new missional opportunities.
  - Developing leaders who are wise in both world and Word, offering sound and balanced guidance for the church's ministry
  - Broader participation in the decision-making and ministries of the church.
  - Not just talk about God's mission, but also organized to move concretely toward realizing that vision.
  - Savings in time and money by focusing the congregation's energies, asking the important questions, putting the spotlight on key results.
  - New measurements of congregational health: not by budgetary or membership goals, but by the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

**A COVENANT of PARTICIPATION**  
**For A Missional Transformation Process**  
**Fall, 2009**

**YES!** As the elected officers and pastor(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(congregation's name)*  
located in \_\_\_\_\_, we are eager to participate with  
other congregations in the presbytery-wide missional transformation process. Our  
session, meeting on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, approved our participation and  
the outline of responsibilities provided below.

**PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY**

- Provide proven leadership for consultation and leader development
- Provide coaching services by presbytery colleagues
- Provide support from the Missional Transformation Coordination Team
- Access to demographic information through MissionInsite and guidance in interpretation
- Support from Committee on Ministry at such time healthy changes in a congregation's life results in greater anxiety in its members
- Share as partner with participating congregations in underwriting the cost of this transformational process in the PWV's Mission Budget each year for three years.

**PASTOR(S)**

- The time necessary to fully attend all ten training events offered for pastors
- Report in writing to his/her session on each of the training events
- Keep the Missional Transformation Coordinating Team and the Interim General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley fully informed regarding accomplishments and challenges of implementing transformation within his/her congregation.

**SESSION**

- Take official action to fully participate in this Missional Transformation Process
- Establish, in consultation with PWV's Missional Transformation Coordinating Team, a coordinating team for your congregation
- Send entire pastoral staff to training and consultation sessions
- Participate in two workshops designed for Sessions during the transformation process
- Support the pastor(s) and make changes as indicated by the consultation and training sessions
- Schedule opportunities to study, reflect, pray, and act on Missional Transformation information
- Based on the size of your average worship attendance, help to underwrite the cost of this transformational process through financial support of the PWV's Mission Budget.

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

Clerk of Session: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interim General Presbyter: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_