

INVITATION TO A JOURNEY

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

Presentation to the Session
Of

Congregation Name & City

Date



CONTENTS

1. So What Is Transformation?
Romans 12:1 - 2 (From Eugene Peterson's *The Message*)
2. Transformation Ministry Team, 2011
3. Action Item for Presbytery Assembly, September 19, 2009
4. Transforming Congregations Toward Mission, Fall 2009
5. How Your Church Will Benefit
 - Take and Read (*Invitation to a Journey*, page 29)
6. Covenant of Participation For A Missional Transformation Process
7. Fee Information

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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Presbytery of Wabash Valley – January 2011

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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 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 Transformation Process

2011

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 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 Transformation Ministry 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 Transformation Ministry Team and the 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 Transformation Process
- Establish, in consultation with PWV's Transformation Ministry 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 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: _____

General Presbyter: _____ Date: _____



PRESBYTERY-WIDE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Type Congregation	Average Worship	Participation Level (OVER THREE YEARS) Dollar Range
Program	151 +	\$5,000 - \$7,500
Pastoral	125-150	\$4,400 - \$5,000
	101-125	\$3,900 - \$4,400
	76-100	\$3,300 - \$3,900
	51 - 75	\$2,700 - \$3,300
Family	26 - 50	\$2,100 - \$2,700
	1 - 25	\$ 500 - \$2,100

Presbytery of Wabash Valley Partnership