

VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

Central Florida Presbytery

Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) is a program of the (PCUSA)Presbyterian Mission Agency.

PURPOSE of the Vital Congregations 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.



The Vital Congregations Initiative is built around ***seven marks of vital congregations:***

- 1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation vs. Complacent “Christian” piety**
- 2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism vs. “Christian” Hypocrisy**
- 3. Outward Incarnational Focus vs. Inward Institutional Survival**
- 4. Empower Servant Leadership vs. the Pastor’s job**
- 5. Spirit-Inspired Worship vs. Self-gratifying worship**
- 6. Caring Relationships vs. Any other Social Club; façades**
- 7. Ecclesial Health vs. Unhealthy dysfunction**

TIMELINE:

2020: Preparation:

- Training of Presbytery Facilitators
- Recruitment of up to fifteen congregations to participate in the Initiative.
- Season of Prayer for Congregational Vitality** – August – November 2020

Zoom Prayer Meetings the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and Use Individual Prayer Cards for Daily Prayer

- Once congregations sign up, **Pastor Cohort Groups** will be formed and begin meeting monthly in 2021 and 2022

2021: Year I: Relational -- Building Intentional Relationships and Honest Assessment of Congregations

- January Casting vision
presbyteries with pastors and church leaders;
pastors with churches.
- January–February Prayer and planning meetings,
Introductions of pastor cohorts
- February-March–April Seven-week church-wide study during Lent
exploring Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

- ❑ May–July Break for summer
 - ❑ August Prayer, planning and training for fall
 - ❑ September–November Checking Your Marks
 - 3 session church and presbytery assessments
 - ❑ November–December Show Your Marks
 - report/capture congregational stories
- ❑ **2022: Year II: Incarnational -- Revitalizing Churches in Three Actions: Re-forming, Missional Clustering, Death and Resurrection**
- ❑ January Prayer and Planning for Vital Congregations
 - ❑ February–March Plotting the Course,
 - Seven-week Study of Rethinking 7 Marks of Vital Congregations
 - ❑ April Pray (One week)
 - ❑ April–October Changing Your Marks — 3 Actions of Revitalizing Churches
 - ❑ November–December Final Vital Congregations Assessment and Report:
 - Show Your Marks (*Two-year overview: Vital Congregations Manual, page 27*)

COST: There is no cost for congregations to participate.

GET STARTED: If your Session is needing an in-depth and lasting approach to finding vitality, please contact Cheryl Carson in the Presbytery Office. The deadline for your enrollment is October 1, 2020. The Initiative is open to any congregations in the presbytery, regardless of size or perceived health.



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For more information about the Initiative, visit the web site here:
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/>

On this site you can download the Vital Congregations Immediate Toolkit and Revitalization Manual, which will give complete information about the Initiative.

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