

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:

2022: Year I: Relational -- Building Intentional Relationships and Honest Assessment of Congregations

- May–July Break for summer though pastor will participate in monthly Pastor Cohort meetings
- August – September 7 week preaching and teaching series on 7 Marks of Vital Congregations
- October–November
USCVS survey, Mission Insite report, and Neighborhood Analysis

2023: Year II: Incarnational -- Revitalizing Churches in Three Actions: Re-forming, Missional Clustering, Death and Resurrection

- January – December - Pastor will participate in monthly Pastor Cohort meetings
- January - VCI Workshop One: Report results of USCVS survey, Mission Insite report, and Neighborhood Analysis in congregational gathering
- February– Season of Prayer and Discernment around Results
- March – VCI Workshop Two: Creating Congregational Action Plan
- April – May Session Creates Final Action Plan
- May – November Begin Actions

- ❑ December - Final Vital Congregations Assessment and Report: Show Your Marks Submitted to presbytery and denomination

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 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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