

Transformation and Renewal Team

The Transformation and Renewal team participants are Jim Neatrou, Nancy Harclerode Wilma Manchester, Meredith Hutchison, John Titus, Tom Croner, Rev. David Ackerman and Diane Wiley, who has participated ex-officio as our Conference Moderator.

One of our focuses this year has been to help churches with websites so that every church that wants a web presence can have one. We have engaged the gifts of Dierdre King Hainsworth to set up a website template, and at the last annual meeting we took a survey of churches and their presence on the internet through websites as well as social media. We found that many of our churches who do not have a website, do participate in Facebook. Having made a list of churches that indicated an interest in creating a Website, with the help of Rev. Ackerman, we contacted these churches and about 6 are working with Dierdre.

The Team has also had meetings with three consultants who work with churches in planning their future. These were Ray Schulte from the Center for Parish Development, Greg Carlson from the Center for Progressive Renewal and Michelle Snyder from Holy Cow/Crow's Feet Consulting. We collaborated with Holy Cow and Denmark Manor UCC to undertake Holy Cow's CAT Scan (Congregational Assessment Tool) to see if this is a useful tool for churches and if this provides in depth information that a church can build from. Denmark Manor has completed the CAT Scan and we are further collaborating with the church as they consider their next steps.

We have also worked with four other churches of the Conference, sometimes in partnership with the Legacy Team and at times along with an Association Committee on Ministry as these churches discern their future. We are consulting with additional churches over the summer and into the fall. The T and R team can help a church in evaluating it's needs and can assist in resourcing these churches if they are serious about considering their future. If you would like the T and R Team to visit with your congregation, please contact Rev. Ackerman.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Hutchison
Chairperson