

Transformation and Renewal Team Report

The Transformation and Renewal Team has evolved into a group of people who serve to resource local churches. We are ready and willing to consult with churches, in order that we might, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, ignite conversations which we hope will lead to action. With this in mind, we have reworked our purpose. Newly stated, the purpose of the The Penn West Conference Transformation and Renewal Team is to work in consultation with Committees on Ministry or other teams in helping churches and/or emerging ministries evaluate their present situation and then discern God's call to ministry in the community and the world.

In the past year we have consulted with 5 churches, St. Paul's in Erie, Denmark Manor in Export, First UCC Harrison City, Calvary UCC in Turtle Creek and The Abbey in Huntington. Some of our conversation is around the bigger question, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" In conjunction with this we have asked these questions, which churches might ask of themselves:

1. What is your greatest gift to the community?
2. What is your vision/ plan for your congregation?
3. Where do you see God calling you right now?
4. What would you absolutely NOT change (the non-negotiables going forward.)
5. What would you like to see happen (in reliance on God providing all things.)

Another question that has emerged is:

6. How is your church engaged in prayer for its ministry and what is your spiritual health?

Last year we made available a resource for developing websites, and surprisingly only a few churches that did not have websites utilized this resource provided by Deirdre King Hainsworth. In this new world that we live in, the use of technology as a tool is essential for communication, and with this in mind we are offering a workshop at the June 2019 Annual Meeting on Church Growth and Technology.

The Transformation and Renewal team is in need of additional members, people who love the church and want to see it thrive. No one is an expert on the team, but together, our combined resources provide a richness that can engage churches is asking themselves the important questions afore mentioned and others that emerge. We are especially in need of creative people who might be interested in receiving training in new ministries as we consider the need for the Penn West Conference to expand its footprint in Western Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,

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