

Discipleship Team (Formerly the Transformation & Renewal Team)

Over the years the Penn West Conference has sought to inspire and provoke local churches and associations to discover how God is calling them to be the church in a new era. From the "God Is Still Speaking" initiative and programs through to the Transformation and Renewal Team, and now our most recent generation, the Penn West Conference Discipleship Team, our efforts have been the re-visioning and new imagining to strengthen the local churches and associations in the conference, in hopes of encouraging the ministry of making God's love and justice real.

The team is still engaging with pastors and churches in an attempt to equip and encourage and implement some helpful changes. With measurable success in the congregations we have been working with our hopes are for more opportunities to journey together in ministry.

Our most recent and very exciting endeavor has been to explore Family Systems and Congregational Discovery, with team member Rev Matt Deal. We are quite excited about the possibilities helping more congregations being prepared for adventuring into ministry today.

As a team, we are willing to journey with individual congregations, or clusters of congregations, who have the desire to revitalize the growth of their church through discipleship and spiritual awakening.

Just a personal note from Jim, I have been part of this team and its variety of forms for nearly 14 years, and as I depart from it, my excitement and the hope for the future is as bright as the first day I joined in 2008. Every congregation is called to be the best representation of Christ's grace and love in their community, and together we can bring peace and hope to a world that is yearning for new life. Blessings of Strength and Hope be upon you, and please contact our team for a shared journey with your congregation, as we go forward as Christ's disciples. Shalom!

Submitted by Jim Neatrour