

VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

Presbytery of St. Augustine

Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) is a program of the PC(USA) 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**

THIS YEAR: Building a Foundation

- Sharing the message of VCI with pastors, sessions, congregations, and the presbytery (teams, committees, commissions, councils)
- Recruitment of 2-3 presbytery facilitators to be trained by the Office of Vital Congregations PC(USA)
- Season of Prayer for Congregational Vitality** – Sept 12– Oct 3, 2022
Zoom Prayer Meetings five Monday evenings at 6:30 pm to pray for all the churches in the presbytery, leading up to the Oct. 4 presbytery meeting – individual prayer cards available for daily prayer
- Recruitment of up to fifteen congregations to participate in the Initiative – deadline for enrollment is Monday, October 31, 2022.
- Once congregations sign up, **Pastor Cohort Groups** will be formed and begin meeting monthly in January 2023

COST: There is no cost for congregations to participate.

INTERESTED? If your Session is seeking a new vision for ministry, a re-boot following Covid, an in-depth and lasting approach to finding vitality, please contact Holly Dillon Inglis in the Presbytery Office for more information. **The Initiative is open to all congregations in the presbytery.**

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For more information about the Initiative, visit the [Vital Congregations](https://www.vitalcongregations.org) website.