

Appendix A-6
Vital Congregations Initiative

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Vital Congregations



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5

If your congregation is seeking....

- a way **to review and celebrate** your current ministries
- **to revitalize by building deeper relationships** with one another as followers of Jesus
- to engage in activities that **clarify your church's energy, strengths and assets** for future ministry
- to **discern how the Spirit can be leading your church** into new ways of connecting with neighbors and sharing the Good News

then the Vital Congregations Initiative may be of interest to you!



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6

The Vital Congregations Initiative is

- a process of holding conversations, in the context of prayer, that helps a congregation both celebrate its accomplishments as well as hear God's invitation to love one another as God has loved us.
- a spiritual process that renews congregations as they pray.
- helps churches look at the changing world at their doorstep, assess their assets and strengths and form a response of Good News to their neighbors.
- guides congregations into discovering how God is leading them into relevant, faithful and joyful service.



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7

The Vital Congregations Initiative is a two-year covenant relationship between congregations, the presbytery and the PC(USA) to **prayerfully** walk with pastors and congregations in intentional efforts of revitalization.

- YEAR 1 seeks to (re)build authentic relationships of faith. Churches will embark on an honest assessment of their life and ministry using 7 Marks of Vital Congregations, capture their stories, confess their realities and discern the Spirit's call to action
- YEAR 2 is about joining Christ in the new thing taking place, allowing the wonder of God to transform and faithfully living into change.



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8

7 Marks of Vital Congregations

The infographic features a central vertical column of seven teardrop-shaped icons, each containing a different symbol representing a mark of a vital congregation. To the left of this column are three callout bubbles, and to the right are four callout bubbles, all pointing to their respective icons. The background is a light green with a faint circular pattern.

- Lifelong Discipleship Formation
- Intentional Authentic Evangelism
- Spirit Inspired Worship
- Outward Incarnational Focus
- Empower Servant Leadership
- Caring Relationships
- Ecclesial Health

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