

December 2, 2021



Greetings People,

Congregational Development and Mission are separated in how we organize our committees and sometimes our money. In all fairness, we cannot have one without the other! Both are necessary for Congregational Vitality! How we live out the Gospel and the Good News of Jesus Christ is directly related to how we are congregations in our communities. The Good News of Jesus Christ demands that we are always developing through effective missional practices of faith. The Good News of Jesus Christ does not change but how we live it out does. For me, the Good News is a constant action message that God loves us so much that God has sent God's only Son to make The Way clear for us! We know this by our love, our work, and our care! How we, TODAY, organize our congregation's budgets, time, and talents will always need to shift to be effective in our love, work, and care. Culture shifts are our "friends". They keep us agile within The Way of the Good News.

We want you to join us at the NCP Continuing Education and Retreat Gathering in Cambridge, MD. January 10th, 4pm – January 12th, 11am. (Flyer with registration link included in this TM) You deserve collective colleague time to integrate the love, the work, and the care of missional theology in being the relevant church today. Several of our congregations and communities are engaging in these adaptive practices at different places along the growth spectrum of congregational vitality. It is always better to practice with others. We also want you to actually meet one another. NCP, during the pandemic, has welcomed many new colleagues! You all are the supportive body of Jesus Christ for one another. Our bodies of faith and leadership will also be restored along the water, heated pools, fireside chats, free time, and building up collegiality!

Your presbytery committees of the Unified Mission Budget continue to provide leadership and tools for our clergy, ministry professionals, and members. Our goal is that you are equipped to navigate shifts and live into effective contextual ministry: Convergence Webinars for you to tap into these creative spaces and meet local partners in our presbytery; The Church Assessment Tool with data to see where the energy is and how your priorities as a congregation can work with your energy; Grants for growth opportunities of community mission; Leadership and resources in what to do with a church building (if this has been a brewing question and concern) for effective ministry. Gather for the shared Cont. Ed and Retreat Event to learn and hear how these tools equip us to do the work in growing our churches as effective bodies of Christ.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

