

COMMISSION ON CHURCH VITALITY

Mission Statement: The Presbytery identifies and strengthens Presbyterian leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

BYLAWS 4.3. The Commission on Church Vitality shall be a standing commission (G-3.0109b) charged with creating opportunities and serving as a resource for evangelism, mission, and education within the Presbytery.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Commission on Church Vitality shall:

- i. Create opportunities and networks to enhance relationships for mission, ministry, and education,
- ii. Create and support continuous learning communities and encourage each TE and RE to participate, and
- iii. Develop a coaching network of skilled Presbytery leaders to practice a coach approach to ministry.

Among the responsibilities of each of Regional Commission on Church Vitality are the following:

- i. Create opportunities and networks to enhance relationships for mission, ministry, and education,
- ii. Create and support continuous learning communities and encourage each TE and RE to participate, and
- iii. Assist churches revitalization efforts,
- iv. Fulfill the responsibility for planting new churches and new worshipping communities,
- v. Propose strategy for establishing and sustaining new worshipping communities within the regions of the Presbytery,
- vi. Help churches to develop and implement effective programs of evangelism, church growth and new member integration, and
- vii. Solicit and share best practices for evangelism, mission and education within the regions and Presbytery.

God's people are always called to a deeper discipleship, to seeking to be Jesus, the Body of Christ, in and for the world. The Commission on Church Vitality, therefore, commends the great ends of the church to our presbytery.

The great ends of the Church are:

the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;
the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness; and
the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

We commend these Great Ends of the Church and invite reflection on them.

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.
How is your ministry doing?
How do you know?
Who is your humankind?
Who isn't?
2. The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.
How is your ministry doing?
How do you know?
What does this mean in your context?
3. The maintenance of divine worship.
How is your ministry doing?
How do you know?
What is divine worship?
How do you understand maintenance?
4. The preservation of the truth.
How is your ministry doing?
How do you know?
Who is responsible for determining truth?
How do you judge?
5. The promotion of social righteousness.
How is your ministry doing?
How do you know?
How are you making the world more equitable?
What difference is your ministry making?

6. The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

How is your ministry doing?

How do you know?

Are you living and exhibiting God's realm?

Who do others say that you are?

The focus of the Commission on Church Vitality is on working with churches and groups in the areas of education, mission and evangelism.

1. To that end, the commission shall meet at least 11 times per year. Quarterly, the commission will have a face to face meeting. Other meetings will be virtual. Regional commissions may meet as needed.
 - a. The commission shall keep minutes of its meetings
 - b. Members of the commission shall recuse themselves from discussions regarding funds related to their particular congregation/organization.
 - c. Members of the commission shall be engaged in connecting with presbytery ministries and churches, developing an awareness of the health and vitality of organizations and congregations within the bounds of the presbytery.
 - d. The Commission shall seek to develop a cooperative approach to ministry vitality, working with the Commission on Ministry and the Trustees as the appropriate.
2. The commission shall encourage the development of networks focused on particular interests, concerns and gifts. It is not the expectation of CCV that its members will necessarily be part of these networks. But, CCV shall strive to encourage the development of such networks.

These networks should be related to the CCV's responsibility for education, mission, and evangelism. Possible networks are:

 - 1) Small Church Network
 - 2) Chaplain Network
 - 3) Transitional Pastors Network
 - 4) Music Outreach Ministry Network
 - 5) Shared Mission Interest Network
 - a) Children's advocacy

- b) Hunger Relief
- c) Refugee/Immigration
- d) Housing Insecurity
- e) Global/International
- f) Human Trafficking
- 6) Christian Education Network

3. The commission shall seek out those with particular skills that would be available to churches and ministries to help in a coaching capacity.
4. The CCV will oversee the distribution of the Presbytery's funds that are available for mission, education, church revitalization/redevelopment, and New Worshiping Communities. When applicable, some funds will be distributed in consultation with the Presbytery's Board of Trustees.
 - a. Ministries, churches, or groups of churches, may apply for funds using application forms developed by CCV.
 - b. The CCV's focus will be on funding that supports ministry vitality and equips ministry vitality.
 - c. The CCV will ask fund recipients to be fully accountable for the funds distributed. The form of accountability will vary depending upon the particular funds and their use.

Addenda:

The denomination, in its Pilot Toolkit for Vital Congregations, lists 7 marks of Vital

Congregations: They are:

1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism
3. Outward Incarnational Focus
4. Empowering Servant Leadership
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship
6. Caring Relationships
7. Ecclesial Health

Marks of healthy churches: This chart summarizes different ways that healthy churches are defined.

10 Healthy Missional Markers 222.covchurch.org/vitality/healthy-missional-markers/	Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Robert Schnase	Natural Church Development	Practicing Congregations Diana Butler Bass
Centrality of the Word of God	The practice of radical hospitality	Empowering leadership	Community
Life transforming walk with Jesus	The practice of passionate worship	Gift-based ministry	Love, Spirit, "With Us"

Intentional evangelism	The practice of intentional faith development	Passionate spirituality	Compassion, pilgrims, friends
Transforming communities through active compassion, mercy, and justice ministries	The practice of risk-taking mission and service	Effective structures	Shared mentoring, teaching
Global perspective and engagement	The practice of extravagant generosity	Inspiring worship service	Formation in Christian practices
Compelling Christian community		Holistic small groups	Communal task, lived, experiential
Heartfelt worship		Need-oriented evangelism	Extroverted, expressive, spirituality
Sacrificial and generous living and giving		Loving relationships	Reflexive, reflective risk
Culture of Godly leadership			Fluid, dynamic, journey
Fruitful organizational structures			Process, wisdom, flexible
			Connected, medium-to-high tension with culture
			Encounter, movement, way of life

Imagination Grant Application for Ministry

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____ Address: _____ Primary
Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Alternate Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
Session or governing body endorsement date: _____

1. What is the basic demographic of your ministry? For churches, please include membership trends and attendance trends for the past five years.

2. Please provide a year end budget report from the previous year. This should include all assets and liabilities.

3. Do you perceive your church as “growing,” “in plateau” or “in decline”? Why?

4. Does your church have a vision/mission statement? How does your project advance that statement?

5. What is the nature of the project for which the funding will be used?

a. New Development (Creating new initiatives with new vision and mission emphasis)

b. Renewal (Expanding on an existing mission and vision)

c. Mission

d. Education

6. Who (in the community or the congregation) is the project going to impact the most? In what way?

7. If this project is an expansion, what is the perceived necessity of the expansion?

8. If this project is a new initiative, what preparation has been done to validate the need for the initiative?

Please attach a budget for this project that includes your congregation's contributions to this project and what you would like to receive from the CCV. Substantial funding will need to be approved by the full CCV Commission which meets quarterly. Please include how you expect to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of your request. If the request is granted, CCV will provide a mutually agreed upon evaluation protocol with due dates.

CCV Con. Ed. Scholarship Request Application

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Circle one: mobile home church/office

Church or ministry: _____

How do you serve that church or ministry (i.e., pastor, chaplain, elder, member with a particular are of interest, etc.)? _____

Name of educational opportunity: _____

Educational opportunity sponsored by: _____

Total cost of attending: _____ Total amount of this request _____

NOTE: Typical CCV assistance is up to half of total cost, but assistance amounts may vary based on requestor's ability to pay, cost of event, etc.

If travel, room, course materials, or other expenses are included in addition to tuition or registration fees, please include details here:

Will you be receiving assistance from any other sources? _____

If so, please include details here: _____

Describe the educational opportunity you are interested in pursuing (i.e., conference, class, trip, etc.):

Why do you want to attend or participate in this particular event?

How do you anticipate that this opportunity will be a benefit to you personally and to the congregation you serve?

Are you willing to share something you learn at this opportunity with the Presbytery (e.g., at a breakout session at a Presbytery meeting)? _____

Have you received encouragement from others to pursue this opportunity (i.e., session, a colleague, your pastor, etc.)? If so, please describe:

NOTE: If you need additional space for any of your answers, you may use the back of this form or attach additional pages.