

Presbytery of Tampa Bay New Worshiping Community Task Force

Introduction:

Across the Presbyterian Church (USA) the Spirit of the living God has renewed within the Church a commitment to form and re-form, create and re-create new worshiping communities. These communities are as diverse and creative as the Church and as wide and wondrous as the God they serve. The formation of new worshiping communities aims to be responsive to the varied and ever-changing needs of the communities around them; faithful to the call of God to make disciples; and committed to our Reformed heritage and Presbyterian polity.

The PC(USA) intentionally chose the language of New Worshiping Community in an effort to broaden the ways we have traditionally thought about church, making space for flexible and contextually appropriate communities. *For the purposes of the 1,001 movement in the Presbyterian Church (USA), the definition of a New Worshiping Community is:*

- *New*
 - *Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ*
 - *Taking on innovative forms of church for our changing culture*
- *Worshiping*
 - *Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament*
 - *Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world*
- *Community*
 - *Practicing mutual care and accountability*
 - *Developing self-sustainability in leadership and finances*

To that end and in support of these communities the Presbytery of Tampa Bay (the Presbytery) gathers this body to support, nurture, challenge, and guide the New Worshiping Communities (NWCs) within its bounds as they seek to serve Jesus Christ and the world.

Membership:

- 7-8 members initially appointed by the moderator for a one-year term, with members nominated by the Committee on Nominations and Representation in accordance with their procedures beginning with the second year.
- The Commission on Church Vitality will appoint, from among its membership, a chair
- Staffed by the Associate Presbyter for Emerging Ministries with appropriate consultation by the Coach and Coordinator and Stated Clerk

Reporting:

- Commission on Church Vitality and Coach and Coordinator

Purpose:

- Identify, nurture, and equip leaders for service in and alongside NWCs

- Offer guidance, resources, and accountability for NWCs as they grow in faith and structure
- Educate the Presbytery's pastors, congregations, and mission partners on needs and opportunities of NWCs

Goals/Aims:

- Pray for NWCs and their pastors and leaders
- Prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in the establishment of NWCs in both their mission and location
- Meet regularly with leadership (pastors and community participants) to develop and assess the following:
 - Initial ministry plans
 - Year 1, 2, and 3 benchmarks focused on the 7 marks of a Vital Congregation
 - Financial sustainability
- Ensure for NWC coaching and receive regular reports from coach
- Develop partner congregations from within the Presbytery to support, nurture, and encourage each NWC
- Provide support/best practices to ensure proper payroll/insurance/legal requirements are met
- Make regular reports and updates to Commission on Church Vitality, the Presbytery, and presbytery staff
- Assist NWC in establishing a virtual presence
- Request authorization of the right administration of the sacraments, including supporting NWCs in utilizing pulpit supply lists when appropriate, through the CCV
- Provide guidance for securing grant funding through the CCV, 1001 New Worshiping Communities, and other appropriate opportunities