

Congregational Transformation Resources

“The Journey,” is a DVD that provides an overview of congregational transformation. It includes an introduction by Sharon Watkins, Disciples General Minister and President. It provides information that can be used by a local congregation to begin its discussion on transformation.

Also available is a CD with a 21 week Bible study, written and developed by Rev. Norma Roberts, “Continuing the Journey.” The congregation can use this Bible study as a companion on its transformation journey.

To request your DVD and/or CD contact:

Brooke Anthony
(317) 713-2641 or
banthony@dhm.disciples.org

Is Your Congregation A Transforming Congregation?

Are you one of the 1,000 transforming congregations? If not, become one, and begin your journey. Go to www.discipleshomemissions.org and look for Transformation under the Congregations menu. Click on [Join the growing list of congregations in transformation](#) to join.

Join the Congregational Transformation E-Group

Join the Congregational Transformation e-group and be part of an ongoing conversation about local church transformation related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The e-group is administered by Chuck Dorsey, pastor, Memorial Christian Church, Quad Cities, Illinois.

For More Information on
Congregational
Transformation Contact:

R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr.
Office of Evangelism and
Congregational Transformation
Disciples Home Missions
(317) 713-2650
calhoun@dhm.disciples.org

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Transformation is an ongoing continuous process, a journey necessary for all congregations, not a program done by a few people.

Congregational Transformation

Some Of The Ways Transformation Will Take Shape

Transformation is fundamental change in the congregation's conception and implementation of ministry. A transforming congregation will be oriented around mission to the unchurched, nurturing them into the loving caring fellowship of Christ. It will be notably different from one oriented primarily around ministering to members alone. The needs of members will still be met. In the context of a church in mission everyone is important, church or yet-to-be church.

- ▶ Inward focus of ministry to outward focus of ministry;
- ▶ Taking care of member's needs to ministering to the hurts/needs of the unchurched and world;
- ▶ Institutional mindset to missionary mindset;
- ▶ Institutional maintenance to mission to not-yet Christian people;
- ▶ God taking care of us to joining God in the work of caring for God's world;
- ▶ "Bulky" governance structures to flexible governance approaches;
- ▶ People will matter more than buildings and equipment; and
- ▶ People will matter more than our customs and habits (requires clarity and consensus on what are and are not the essentials of the faith that cannot be compromised).

Congregational Transformation Definition

Congregational transformation is the intentional spiritual journey that a congregation undertakes systemically in order to realize what God has called it to be as church and to do in mission in today's world.

The journey is spiritual because transformation is the work of God. It is about listening to God, deepening our relationship with God, and acting upon what we discern is God's will.

It is systemic because it is about everything a congregation is and does, not just one aspect of its program. It is connected denominationally and to the whole church.

This is a strategic journey because it addresses change in an intentional process of action steps.

Since communities of faith are an integral part of the entire web of God's ecology, the transformation of congregations is a piece of God's transformation of all creation, addressing the pressing needs for stewardship of the world.

Transformation is a continuous process. One cannot point to a finally transformed congregation, but we can all be on the way.

The journey is our home.