

THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The work of congregational development is focused around two major areas; the establishment of new faith communities and participation in Natural Church Development by our existing churches.

We are currently working on five new church starts. Point Hope in Mt. Pleasant is actually a restart and is showing great progress by now having over 100 in worship. Waters Edge in Beaufort has outgrown the movie theatre and is now preparing to move into a much larger school facility. They are now averaging 140 in worship. Grace Community in the Fort Mill area is having 100 worshipers on a regular basis and began their launch series on April 20. Journey Church in Northeast Columbia is meeting in a leased space on Clemson road and their average worship attendance is approaching 100. GracePoint in Bluffton is developing their launch team and having regular "Taste and See" events.

We are not planning to launch any new congregations at this Annual Conference. It does appear that we will be on track to launch three next year. One of the critical needs is for us to have strong, healthy churches who want to give birth to new congregations. Churches that have budget and people resources are needed to help plant our new faith communities. Helping to identify these mother churches will be a priority for the next conference year. Our Discernment Academy will once again be held this fall as we seek to identify those pastors who have the gifts and graces to plant a new church.

Over 250 churches have engaged in the Natural Church Development process. We now have churches that are taking the survey for the second time. Those who have worked on the process are showing significant growth by addressing their minimum factor. We are continuing to develop our coaching network. We are working with CoachNet in training and certifying people to come alongside and coach our pastors.

It is also important that we recognize the service of Rev. Dan Bradley who has served as the chairperson of the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for the past eight years. Dan has served the conference in a significant way and he has advanced the cause of Congregational Development across South Carolina. Thanks Dan for your faithfulness.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Taylor, Director