



Commission on Ministry Innovation (COMI)

Regional Assembly - Ministry Experiments & Next Steps

DRAFT - 11.4.24

Overview

Ministry Priorities

- Collaboration between churches - As memberships and budgets shrink, congregations want ways to combine resources for a bigger impact. Ideas include:
 - Youth Programming, like a Bible Study
 - *The Regional Youth Cabinet and Kylie Graham (Camp & Conference Coordinator) would continue organizing this. Stephen Underwood (Associate Minister of Community Christian Church) has also volunteered to take lead.*
 - The Regional Ministry and/or congregations sharing staff members, software, and other costs. Regional banking of supplies and resources.
 - *COMI wants to take point on this. It fits within our mandate of Ministry Innovation.*
 - Robust regional communications to keep information flowing and build relationships between congregations and the regional committees/commissions
 - *The staff should be largely responsible for this. COMI Recommends that the Personnel Committee, Executive Committee, and current Regional Minister collaborate to overhaul the staff structure, with Communications and Relationship building as a priority.*
 - Shared service, advocacy, and justice work among congregations
 - *COMI has questions about how this differs from the efforts of Becoming Beloved Community. With support from Regional Staff, perhaps BBC could expand their focus. This is also an important ability of the new Regional Minister. It is also possible that each Committee/Commission in the region prioritizes shared justice/advocacy/service projects within their current purviews.*
 - Opportunities for KC Disciples to gather with food for fellowship
 - *Regional Minister and Staff with help from volunteers. Perhaps different Commissions/Committees could take lead in a rotation.*
- Supporting Clergy - With high rates of burnout and overlapping global crises, our spiritual leaders need more support to stay healthy in their leadership. Ideas include:
 - Clergy to Clergy support, co-counseling, home visits
 - *Could Ordination and Standing take a look at this? Or the Clergy Support team that Rob Carr and Jill Standley started?*
 - Training Laity to better support Clergy
 - *A regular training produced by the Regional Minister and Staff*
 - Provide therapy and spiritual direction resources to Clergy

- *Can Ordination and Standing, Executive Committee, and/or Regional Board determine how to get this done?*
- Search and Call - Whether articulated as a shortage of clergy or a shortage of healthy congregations, the matchmaking process between Clergy and Congregations is getting harder. Ideas include;
 - More Clergy - leading people to their calling to ministry
 - *Regional Minister, Board, RYC*
 - Radical truth telling in the Search and Call process
 - *Regional Minister, Adding KLC/Adaptive Leadership training to Interim Training in KC Region*
 - Integrate the Church Narrative Project into the Search and Call process
 - *Regional Minister, current CNP participants*
- Leadership Development - With smaller budgets and fewer staff, congregation members are needing to step up and take more responsibility for leadership but don't have the skills or experience to do so successfully. Ideas include:
 - Igniting Leadership Gifts
 - *Regional Minister with help from the Regional Assembly Group as volunteers*
 - Multigenerational Mentorship Program
 - *Regional Minister & Board with Derek Noftzger as point person and Regional Assembly Group as volunteers.*
 - Pathways to Leadership, recruitment of people into leadership
 - *Regional Minister, Board and Staff*

Group Titles and Members - folks who discussed these topics at Regional Assembly

Youth Bible Study

- **Stephen Underwood (Contact)**
- Kylie Graham
- Andrew Southard
- Audrey Steitz
- Brooke Nickell
- Claire Lammers
- Kelly Schneikart
- Kevin Kelley
- Karyssa Fugarino

Igniting Leadership Gifts

- **Tammy Eaton (Contact)**
- Cindy Heckman
- Charisse Craine
- Jennifer Finch
- Martin Zarate
- Susie Arnold
- Karen E. Hall

Sharing Resources Among Congregations

- **Bettye Hubbard (Contact)**
- Suzanne Thomas
- Ruth Dilda
- Dawn Shoet
- Judy Southard

Multigenerational Mentorship Council

- **Derek Noftzger (Contact)**
- Marilyn Pickrel
- John Seals
- Jan Seals

Radical Truth Telling in Search and Call

- Lara Blackwood Pickrel
- Delesslyn Kennebrew
- Steve Crandall
- Pat Hodges
- Louise Jones
- Dave Culver
- Shanna Steitz

Communications & Relationships

- Denise Dugan
- Lisa Setty
- Lisa Engelken
- Kathy Harris
- Neal Heckman
- Jennie Whittemore
- Debbie Matteson
- Claudia Ketterlin

Training Laity to Better Support Clergy

- Joel Short
- Jan Brooks
- Kelly Wargo
- Sherry McGlaughlin
- Bonnie Dickson
- Anthony Mondaine

Collaboration for Shared Justice and Missions

- **Mindy Fugarino (Contact)**
- Bryce Bowers
- Fred Herron
- Paul Southard
- Gary Rowlen

Clergy Support

- **Helen Nelson (Contact)**
- James Vertreese
- Stella Ruiz
- Ann Kircher