



Vital Church Initiative

Phase I- Learning 2gether

Session Schedule

Location: Roscommon: Good Shepherd

Time: TBD

Facilitator: Mark Fielder - marksuefielder@aol.com

Meeting Dates:

- Jan. 20, 2018
- Feb. 17, 2018
- Mar. 17, 2018
- Apr. 14, 2018
- May 12, 2018
- Jun. 9, 2018
- Sep. 8, 2018
- Oct. 6, 2018
- Nov. 10 2018
- Dec. 1, 2018

Session Materials

Participant Workbook (distributed electronically, please contact Cheryl Poole cpoole@detroitconference.org for a hard copy. Assigned reading (see list below).

In Preparation for January 20th

All participants are asked to read *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase

Participating Churches

Roscommon: Good Shepherd

Typical Session Content

- Objectives for the Session
- Participation in a Spiritual Practice
- Leadership Teaching (including break-out times for church teams to discuss)
- Key Learning Review
- Commitment to Next Action Steps

Reading List

Session 1: *Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation* by Robert Schnase

Session 2: *Renovate or Die* by Bob Farr with Kay Kotan.

Session 3: *Worship Ways* by Tom Bandy with Lucinda Holmes

Session 4: *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being Calm and Courageous No Matter What* by Peter Steinke

Session 5: *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese.

Session 6: *Leadership and Organization for Fruitful Congregations* by Stephan W. Ross

Session 7: *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson

Additional Recommended Reading

Adapt to Thrive by John Flowers and Karen Vannoy

Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton

The Sacred Way by Tony Jones

Bearing Fruit by Lovett Weems

Frequently Asked Questions

How many people are on our “travel” and “home” teams?

A 6 – 8-person team should attend the monthly training sessions. The home team can be a similar size. When the groups join, the entire team is still small enough to promote discussion.

What is the responsibility of the “home” team?

The “home” team is responsible for reading the monthly required books. The “home” team participates in monthly meetings with the “travel” team, where subjects raised by the VCI sessions are discussed. It is the responsibility of both the “travel” and “home” team to be interpreters of VCI Phase 1 learnings to the greater congregation.

How many books should we purchase?

This depends on the team. Some participating churches purchase an entire set of required books so that each “away” and “home” team member has a personal copy. Other churches buy fewer books and create a lending library. Some team members prefer to purchase the books themselves in e-reader format.

What if I or members of our team cannot attend a Saturday session?

Ideally, all team members will attend all sessions. Unfortunately, schedule conflicts, illness, etc. will not always make that possible. If team members are unable to attend a session, they can be “debriefed” at a meeting of the entire Phase 1 church team. If a team member will miss over a third of the sessions, it may be advisable for that person to change places with someone from the “home” team.