



# VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA

CHRIST'S WORK ♦ OUR WITNESS



*As part of our larger Ministry and Leadership Incubator, we have accepted the invitation to participate in a denominational initiative focused on strengthening the local congregation.* This is part of a continuing pilot coordinated by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to encourage churches with 300 members and under to embark intentionally on a two-year venture rooted in vibrant relationships, honest assessment, community-based discernment, and theological and biblical reflection that will empower churches to reclaim their call to Spirit-inspired worship that unleashes their Christ-centered work in the world.

*Our hope and belief is that at the initiative's conclusion there will be:*

1. increased relationships across the presbytery of mutual support and accountability;
2. renewed understandings of what it means to be a healthy and connectional church in Greater Philadelphia and beyond;
3. reclaimed ownership of a congregation's past and present story as they lean into the new thing God is creating in and through them;
4. discerned awareness of available assets, opportunities, and concerns of their neighborhoods;
5. elevated theological and biblical reflection that fosters individual and collective discipleship while provoking fresh incarnations of the gospel. In the end, our presbytery's participation in this initiative will speak life and resurrection hope into the beautiful and complex realities of local churches.



## Participating Churches (as of 1/10/20)

Levittown Presbyterian Church  
 Glading Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Holy Trinity-Bethlehem Presbyterian Church  
 Summit Presbyterian Church  
 Bensalem Presbyterian Church

Elkins Park Presbyterian Church  
 Warminster Presbyterian Church  
 Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church  
 Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church



### Vital Congregations Facilitators:

Rev. Carla Jones-Brown (Arch Street Presbyterian Church), Rev. Ryan Balsan (First Presbyterian Church of Ambler)

### Vital Congregations Task Force

Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace (Executive Presbyter)  
 Rev. Greg Klimovitz (Associate Presbyter)  
 Rev. Chris Holland (New Spirit Presbyterian Church)  
 Rev. Su Fall (Forest Grove Presbyterian Church)

Elder Courtenay Willcox (Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church)  
 Rev. Anna Grant (Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church)  
 Elder Frank Orzechoski (Warminster Presbyterian Church)  
 Rev. Kris Schondelmeyer (Presbyterian Church of Deep Run)

We invite our Presbytery to lift these congregations and leadership in prayer as they begin this collective venture. If your congregation is still interested in participating, please contact Rev. Greg Klimovitz, Associate Presbyter, [gklimovitz@presbyphl.org](mailto:gklimovitz@presbyphl.org). Our final roster of churches will be submitted on January 29, 2020.

**More details on our participation in Vital Congregations:**  
<https://presbyphl.org/ministry-incubator/vital-congregations/>