

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION Report, April 2016

The working groups of the Division are coming together slowly and setting up goals and plans for themselves. The Evangelism Committee is looking to discern what evangelism is on the Presbytery level, and how they can be most effective. At the July Presbytery meeting, they will be leading a time of sharing in small groups how God is being seen working in PWNC, sharing some of our own "aha" moments in everyday life.

Water to Wine now has its own subcommittee, composed of Merri Alexander, Emma Davis, and John Hall. They have tweaked the criteria and posted the application form on the Presbytery website. Anyone interested in applying for a grant can now find all they need there.

The African American Advisory Team held its second Crossroads Forum at Third Street Presbyterian Church on April 2. The group is continuing to look at where God is calling them to be at this time in PWNC. "The Good News Story" Bible Study was led by Rev. Eddie Deas and Rev. Hal Bennett. Attendees were from Third Street, Ryburn, and Dulatown Presbyterian Churches, along with Bobbi White, Olanda Carr from the Presbyterian Foundation, and Dot Descieux. A third Forum is being planned for late summer.

Small Church Committee and the Evangelism Committee are teaming up for a Presbytery-wide event on September 10 in Morganton. The morning session will focus on stewardship, and the afternoon on spirituality. Olanda Carr from the Foundation will be a part of the stewardship program, and Rev. Tom Lewis from the Evangelism Committee the spirituality portion.

The original Division plan had included having a task force to look at the use and sharing of technology, as well as finding affordable curriculum assistance for smaller churches. Since the existing committees on Christian Education and Resources are already moving in that direction, it seems more faithful to avoid duplication and support them in this work, rather than creating another task force.

In the upcoming months, the Division will be working on the proposed task forces on Cluster Vitalization, Visioning and Initiatives, and the one on New Worshiping Communities. Anyone who might be interested in being part of any of these groups should let Tonya in the Presbytery Office know.

Dot Descieux