

## **Congregational Vitality Initiative – Ready! Set! Grow! Project Your Congregation’s Local Team**



As you consider how to build your team for the Ready, Set, Grow project remember the purpose of the project is to discern your congregation’s mission for their place and time in God’s story. Your team will engage in prayer and Bible study, learn new tools for research, consider your congregation’s mission statement and gifts for ministry and share their discoveries and excitement with the rest of your faith community.

### **Things to consider:**

- ☞ Who works well together?
- ☞ Who knows your context and enough local congregational history to remember what might have worked well and what never got off the ground before and why?
- ☞ Who is excited about our denominational identity and at least aware of the United Church of Christ God Is Still Speaking campaign?
- ☞ Who will be an encourager of others as new ideas are shared? If folks feel overly threatened, new is the last thing they’ll want. We need to be God’s messengers (angels) saying, “Be not afraid.”
- ☞ This team will be the key advocates for change, keeping the church focused on its goals, implementing and tweaking tactics to accomplish common goals.

### **Expectations of team members:**

- ☞ Prayerful consideration and acceptance of God’s call to this ministry opportunity.
- ☞ Attendance at team meetings in your setting, scheduled according to your team members and their needs, but recommended often enough to begin implementing tactics and involving your congregation at large.
- ☞ Attendance and participation at quarterly meetings within your Association. Other teams will attend, learn, and share with one another their experiences and support for the next steps on the journey, too.
- ☞ Attendance and participation at meetings of partner group – arranged groups of teams for support and accountability. These groups will schedule time together as follow up to quarterly meetings.
- ☞ Boldness and persistence in presenting the possibilities to your congregation and wider community. This project is simply a beginning place for your congregation in its ongoing discernment – who are you called to be in your context in this time? What gifts do you have to share – as individuals and as a community of faith? Name it. Claim it. Invite others to experience new life in Christ wherever they are on their journey!

The quarterly meetings will serve the purpose of introducing the three modules (Ready, Set, Grow) and follow up with an evaluation time.

### ***Quarterly meeting schedule (Locations and times to be determined):***

Eastern Association: September 15, 2007; January 1, 2008; April 5, 2008; June 7, 2008.

St. Louis Association: October 6, 2007; January 26, 2008; April 12, 2008; June 14, 2008.

Western Association: October 13, 2007; February 2, 2008; April 19, 2008; June 21, 2008.