

GROWING VITAL CONGREGATIONS

Dear Members of the ABCOPAD Family,

It is surely the dream of every pastor and congregation to have a vibrant and healthy church. Unfortunately, the reality of having such a church today is becoming more and more difficult. However, there is good news, for the Commission on Growing Vital Congregations has developed resources for Region churches interested in beginning a pathway of renewal and transformation. These resources are now available for download on our Region website at www.abcopad.org. The Commission's approach to revitalization rests on the church being a living body, with "vital signs" that serve to identify a church's health and well being. The resources the Commission now has available are listed below.

- List of Eight Vital Signs of a (Spiritually) Growing Congregation (see attached sheet).
- An explanation for the Eight Signs and selected Bible verses. (A valuable resource for study, prayer and reflection).
- Assessment Tool to measure each Sign (strength and weakness). How are we doing?
- Introductory Workshop on "Growing Vital Congregations"
- Envisioning Information
- Kinds of Congregations
- The Vibrant Church (Quotes)

Please be aware that church vitality has nothing to do with size. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst" (Matthew 18:20). Every church is a whole church because Jesus Christ is present. Therefore, any church can be a vital church by God's grace.

Sincerely in Christ,

David R. Skinner, Southwest Area Minister

ABCOPAD