

# Vitality Is

## A Journey Toward Becoming New In Christ

Facilitated by:  
Charlene J. Smith  
Minister of Evangelism for  
Church Development and Vitality  
866-822-8224, ext. 3815 [smithc@ucc.org](mailto:smithc@ucc.org)

## The Road to Vitality



## PURPOSE

*We are gathered here today to discern God's will for us as the church of today and the future.*

*We do this through prayer,  
by relying on the Holy Spirit,  
by listening to one another,  
by listening to the still speaking God,  
and by taking action to  
move God's church forward.*

## Rules of Engagement

1. Acknowledge God's presence with us today.
2. Everyone is asked to willingly participate.
3. This is a safe place to share your thoughts, true feelings and desires for your church.

## Rules of Engagement

4. Everyone's questions, viewpoints and opinions are equally valued and respected.
5. It's alright not to agree with everything that is said.
6. A Christian attitude will be maintained when disagreeing.

## Rules of Engagement

7. Look deep within to move beyond the obvious and search for a deeper truth.
8. All statements and comments are to be phrased in the positive.
9. Laughter and fun are necessary ingredients for a successful time together.

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## What is Vitality?

What does it mean to  
be a vital congregation?

How can we recognize vitality?

Vitality is the  
Pulse of  
The congregation

***A Healthy Pulse:***

A desire for a closer spiritual relationship  
with Christ

Clarity of God's call and purpose for  
individuals and the church

Mission and purpose driven leadership

## ***A Healthy Pulse:***

A passion for evangelism

An intentional outreach focus

Extravagant welcome and hospitality  
abounds

Gifts are discerned and affirmed

## ***A Healthy Pulse***

Relational vitality with engagement of the  
church and community within the cultural  
context

Revitalized discipleship (nurturing and  
teaching)

Hope filled worship

Understanding spiritual  
and relational vitality  
is fundamental to church  
renewal, revitalization and  
growth

**Spiritual Vitality is about  
love of God**

To know God's will, we must spend  
time with God and know God. This  
requires:

Knowing Christ on a personal level  
Personal devotion  
Time in prayer (talking and listening)  
Reading and discerning Scripture

**Spiritual Vitality  
is essential to  
Relational Vitality**

**Relational Vitality is about  
love of Neighbor**

Relational Vitality is:

More than just internal relationship with those who are already members of the church

It has to be about knowing and loving our neighbor

It has to do with knowing and connecting with the context where we are called to do ministry.

# *CVI*

## Congregational Vitality Initiative Of Local Church Ministries

### What is Congregational Vitality?

Ready, Set, Grow, The Congregational Vitality Initiative, led by the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team of the Local Church Ministries is a cooperative program among national ministries, in consultation with conference leadership, to resource the vital life and growth of our congregations.

## The Goal

The goal of CVI is for churches to focus on spiritual growth which results in developing ministries that reach out to the community and bring new people to Christ based on building on their strengths, and the evaluation of the community in which they reside and the people they want to attract.

## Why Congregational Vitality?

Now is the time for our churches to respond to the needs of a hurting society.

Now is the time for our churches to return to being the church God is calling us to be.

Now is the time for us to listen to the still speaking God.

## **Strategy**

**The Congregational Vitality Initiative  
(CVI)  
offers a holistic approach to:**

**Evangelism  
Worship  
Biblical literacy  
Stewardship  
Education  
Leadership development  
Mission outreach**

## **Questions for the Journey**

**Do you really want to take this journey  
toward becoming new and renewed  
in Christ?**

**Are you willing to take the time to listen  
for a word from God?**

## Questions for the Journey

Are you willing to sacrifice and work for  
the life of the future church?

Are you ready to embrace change?

## Two Myths In The Church

*There can be growth  
Without change*

*There can be change  
Without conflict*

God is still speaking ,

READY ,  GROW !

VITALITY

## Ready, Set, Grow!

Ready, Set, Grow is a process:

Every Congregation can gain from this process.

Following the process will lead to a renewed spirituality and develop a closer relationship with Christ.

Renewed and re-energized the congregation will find new ways of living evangelism and develop new more effective and appropriate ministries.

It's time to get

READY

## Grounded in Scripture

Haggai 2: 1 - 9

On the twenty-first day of the next month, the LORD told Haggai the prophet to speak this message to Governor Zerubbabel, High Priest Joshua, and everyone else: Does anyone remember how glorious this temple used to be? Now it looks like nothing.

But cheer up! Because I, the LORD All-Powerful, will be here to help you with the work, just as I promised your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt. Don't worry. My Spirit is right here with you.

Soon I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake the nations, and their treasures will be brought here. Then the brightness of my glory will fill this temple.

All silver and gold belong to me, and I promise that this new temple will be more glorious than the first one. I will also bless this city with peace.

## Grounded in Scripture

### 2 Timothy 4:2

I can't impress this on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone, living and dead. He is about to break into the open with his rule, so proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple.

## Grounded in Scripture

### *Haggai 2: 1- 9 and 2 Timothy 4: 2*

What was your first reaction to the texts?

How do the two passages connect?

What words or phrases had the most impact on you?

How do these passages relate to you and your church?

## Ready

*This is a time of questioning and evaluation.*

What are the Core Values of the Church?

What is the vision of the Church? Do members own the vision?

What are the strengths of the church?

## Ready

What are you doing that is evangelistic in nature to live out your vision and invite new people to Christ?

Do you know the effectiveness and relevance of your current outreach ministries?

How do you show radical extravagant hospitality to members and guests?

## Set

*This is a time to organize, prioritize, triage and make decisions.*

Are the Core Values understood by all?

Is the vision for the future clear?

Do the current ministries build on your strengths?

## Set

Do the current ministries reflect the core values and vision?

Are the current ministries relevant to the community?

What ministries need to be celebrated and ended?

What new ministries can you start?

## Grow

*God is calling you into a closer relationship with Jesus. God is calling you to become the church of today and tomorrow. God is calling you to commitment and action.*

Develop a positive mindset of renewing, revitalizing, reenergizing and ready, set, grow.

## Grow

Pray for the church daily.

Attend Bible Study.

Write a new vision/mission statement if necessary based on the churches strengths and core values today.

Develop a workable plan of action with attainable goals.

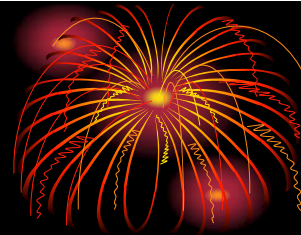
## Grow

Own the vision of a renewed, reenergized, revitalized church.

Live the vision of a renewed, reenergized and revitalized church.

Be personally involved in the renewing process.  
Take a leadership role.

## Celebrate



**Give God praise  
and thanks**

A new Day

Now is the time to get Ready.

Another Chance to listen to God.

Now is the time to get Set

Another opportunity to obey God

Now is the time to Grow!

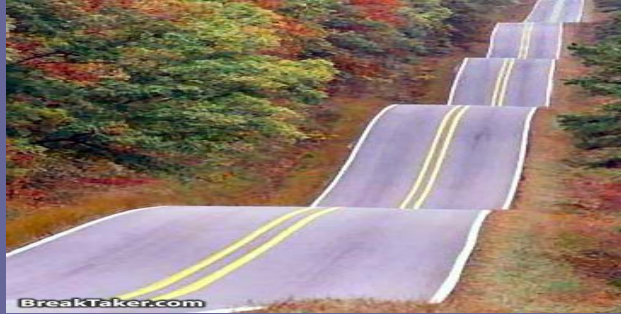


A bend in the road is  
not the end of the road



Unless you fail to make the turn

## The Road to Renewed Vitality



Enjoy the Journey