

Vital Church Initiative Update
and
Pre-Consultation Workshop Registration Information
By
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As you may remember, the Vital Church Initiative (VCI), is a program designed by the greater United Methodist Church to assist mature congregations in growing and continuing to be vital in ministry in the 21st Century. This program is intended to help our congregation address the way in which our world has changed so that we can continue to attract new souls to Christ and make disciples for Jesus. The VCI Team – Pastor Doug, Rev. Sherry, Cory Lupinacci, Bette Knedgen, Cheryl Damman, and Katy Weeks — have been involved in Phase I of VCI for the last 18 months, which required reading a book a month, attending 25 hours of lectures on Saturdays in Brighton with other churches, and meeting once a month on our own. On January 21st, Gary Step, Director of Congregational Excellence and New Church Development from the Michigan Area United Methodist Church, came to a Town Hall after Sunday worship to discuss Phase II of VCI and answer questions our parishioners had about the VCI process.

On Feb. 13th, our Administrative Council voted to proceed to Phase II of VCI. Phase II is a consultation and information-gathering phase where outside consultants from the greater United Methodist Church interview staff, clergy, and parishioners; review information about the history and demographics of our church; gather information from the Readiness 360 Survey, an online survey of church attendees; watch videos of our worship services; read feedback surveys from the *Who Stole My Church?* book discussions; and review research about the demographics of churched and unchurched people in the greater Milford area. Phase II will cost our congregation \$1,700, but this is a fraction of the actual expense of what it costs the greater United Methodist Church to provide this consulting. The greater UMC wants our congregation to thrive!

All of this information-gathering is in preparation for the culminating event: a three-day workshop VCI Consultation Weekend which will take place April 27th – 29th. On April 29th, Gary Step and the Consultation Team from the greater UMC will deliver our prescriptions during Sunday worship: five places where we are strong as a congregation and five places where we need to make changes in order to continue to thrive. On May 20th, we will vote whether or not to accept these prescriptions and move into Phase III, the final execution phase of VCI.

The VCI Team would like to invite you to attend the VCI Pre-Consultation Workshop on Saturday, March 24th from 9 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall of MUMC. At this workshop, Gary Step will teach us the characteristics of a healthy church and reflect candidly on how our church is doing on each of those characteristics. Participants will be able to express their ideas, opinions, and suggestions for revitalizing our church. **All participants will receive a Pre-Consultation Workshop Participant Workbook, so it is critical that you RSVP in order that we will photocopy enough workbooks for all participants. To register, please visit the SignUpGenius at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48aca62ea7f58-vcipreconsultatio> or contact Katy Weeks at weeks@kathryntyler.com or 248-624-2337 or the church office. Some snacks and drinks will be provided, but we would appreciate donations of additional brunch foods, if participants are inclined to bring snacks to share.**

The more people who attend this workshop, the healthier and more fruitful our church will be in the future. We would love to see 100% church attendee participation!