

Report of the WJ Congregational Development  
WJ Leadership Team Meeting  
January 29, 2016

General Overview of the WJ New Faith Community Development Plan:

We believe that our best strategy for fulfilling the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ that will help transform people's lives and the world is developing new and vital faith communities.

Empowered by the Spirit of the living God, the disciples spread the gospel by organizing communities of faith that fully embrace the reconciling ministry and radical mission of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:40-47).

The United States is experiencing a wave of new and vital United Methodist churches. We are seeing a clear increase in church planting and congregational redevelopment excitement across our UMC connection here in the USA and around the world. In the Western Jurisdiction Conference, we are encouraged by the recently increased interest in new faith community development and congregational vitality. From 2012-2015, we launched **75** new faith communities, which seems like our collective efforts are making good progress toward our goal of **305** new faith community starts by 2024. Attached are the NFD Details Annual Conferences Report and the WJ NFD Summary Report.

We are excited about the fact that many more people are finding hope with God, more disciples standing with people in the margins, and more followers of Christ advocating for peace and justice in our communities and around the world. This is the sort of mission and ministry that we as people called United Methodists need to be about.

As Wesleyan people, we view our call to ministry as something that is all about seeing lives and communities transformed by the love of God. Our effort is geared towards helping church folks to move beyond theory to action, and the followers of Christ are effective witnesses when they are rooted in relationships committed to both personal piety and social holiness.

Our effort of starting new faith communities seeks to live out the mission of the Western Jurisdiction, which is "A home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation: the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is multicultural and inclusive, engaged in the life of its communities, with confident, effective lay and clergy leadership who, in diverse ministry settings, form disciples who live out the Good News of Jesus as global citizens."

It is a wondrous and amazing time to lead and to get involved with the opportunity to put into action a vision of a new kind of church that embraces our roots in Wesleyan theology, and fulfills the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

By:

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