

## Definition of Congregational Renewal as missional

George Bullard says, "Congregational transformation is an ongoing spiritual and strategic journey that empowers congregations to travel in the direction of their unique full kingdom potential in response to God's call that is expressed through a captivating vision for future ministry championed by an enduring visionary leadership community."

Our understanding of a missional congregation flows from the belief that the congregation is a visible expression of the Body of Christ in a specific location made up of individuals, i.e. a community. This is defined by the Holy Scriptures...Acts 2: **42**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43**Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. **44**All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45**Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. **46**Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47**praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

We would therefore define a missional congregation as one that is characterized by:

- Members who are taught Christian doctrine and are knowledgeable in the same and able to easily and comfortably share their Christian faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Have a strong networked community in which there is mutual concern for one another, small group ministry and outreach to friends, neighbors and acquaintances
- Regular participation in Bible study, meditation, confession and absolution and reception of Lord's Supper.
- Active, intentional prayer that is free and spontaneous for others as well as self that includes praise, thanksgiving and supplication.
- As a result of the work of the Holy Spirit in such a faith community people are coming to faith on a regular basis and are growing in their faith and witness (discipleship).

This may or may not result in increasing the numbers of the congregation or in average weekly worship attendance for the congregation may exist in a dying community, but there will be an impact on the community in which the congregation exists.