



Through the Office of Connectional Ministries we assist the local church in their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through the work of congregational development and evangelism. We offer training and resourcing that is available to all of our local churches upon request. We are excited to see our churches reaching 2400+ people for Jesus Christ and helping those new believers become fully formed followers of Jesus Christ.

We have tools and resources available to help. If you go to our website at [wvumc.org](http://wvumc.org), you'll find many tools and resources listed under the "Innovative Congregations" tab. Don't worry if you don't find the answer there. Just ask! Call, email or find me traveling around the conference to ask a question. The teams I work with gets most excited about the questions, because it allows us to look for new solutions or resources. Your question may be just the thing that we need to develop something new that will help many churches. Chances are, if you have that question, so do many others.

On the back of this sheet, are highlights about several resources or upcoming events. I especially want to let you know about the Membership to Discipleship workshop coming up on February 10, 2018. This event will be live at Forrest Burdette in Hurricane, WV and live broadcast to 9 other locations around the conference. We've scheduled this in response to questions from churches about developing discipleship systems. Dr. Phil Maynard will lead us through a day of thinking about what it means for your church to develop mature disciples. You can find out more at <http://conta.cc/2hMfDuK> - hope to see you there!

I look forward to hearing more about how your church is reaching new people and making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

With joy –

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Some resources available to every church:

Missioninsite - <http://missioninsite.com/>

Every church in our conference has access to this demographic study tool at no charge. You can study your neighborhood and compare what you learn to some of the best, most up-to-date information available to hospitals, schools and other businesses in your area. You can download the registration instruction sheet from [wvumc.org](http://wvumc.org) and set up your own login. Alternatively, you can email Amy Shanholtzer at [ashanholtzer@wvumc.org](mailto:ashanholtzer@wvumc.org) for assistance or to get a report. We can offer a training on the tool for a parish or district at any time as well. Just let us know!

### Reaching New People

Over 100 of our churches in the conference have attended one of these weekend workshops led by Jim Griffith and Paul Nickerson. At this event, your pastor and a team from your church will learn the most effective ways to reach new people for Christ today. Our next event is coming up on April 13-14, 2018 at Steele Memorial UMC in Barboursville, WV. Watch for registration details to be announced after January 1, 2018 at <https://www.wvumc.org/event/reaching-new-people-2/> or in our weekly enews.

Seeallthepeople.org – We are excited to see the ways in which our local churches are using the resources from this Discipleship Ministries website. There are videos, teaching tools and suggestions that can all be put to practical use in the local church. More is being added every week so be sure to register so that you can get the new updates and videos. We are grateful that Discipleship Ministries has created such a great resource to help us accomplish our mission!

Choosing the Faithful Path – is a great resource and process for churches who don't quite know where to start. This was developed as a bible study to be done in the local church to help assess strengths and challenges and develop a plan for moving forward. We have trained facilitators available for your church and the materials are available at no charge.

For more information about any of these resources, please visit [wvumc.org/innovative-congregations/](http://wvumc.org/innovative-congregations/) or email [ashanholtzer@wvumc.org](mailto:ashanholtzer@wvumc.org).