

Report from the Committee on Congregational Development April, 2016

Summary Highlights for the 1st Quarter of 2016

The Committee has been actively involved in meetings, church visitations, workshops and the facilitation of programs that benefit the churches of the Association.

The three congregations that took part in New Beginnings, a renewing and church revitalization program, are continuing to work on their revitalization process. We continue to monitor their progress and offer assistance where needed.

The committee is also reviewing the relationship of churches which have been reported to have a low level of participation in the Association. We are exploring ways to strengthen the two-way covenant between each church and the Association. Reaching out to these churches is a major focus of the committee this year. Visiting with the District Deans to share with us the status of the congregations in their districts will be an integral part of this.

We continue to work with two congregations are active in the process of moving toward membership in the Association. We are hoping to present them for membership at the Fall Meeting.

The committee remains in discussion with two churches about the possibility of our providing **situational support**. We also have two additional churches that are in the process of requesting support. We will continue to follow up.

We are working collaboratively with the New York Conference to facilitate more support for our congregations. In that spirit we are supporting two upcoming workshops: a Discipleship Workshop on April 30 led by Phil Maynard, author of *SHIFT* to be held at Christ Congregational Church in the Bronx, and a workshop for churches on Governance and Board Development, led by Dan Hotchkiss of the Alban Institute on June 4 at Riverside, which is co-sponsoring the event.

Submitted by
Rev. Dr. William Nye, Co-Chair
Ms. Marcie Agee, Co-Chair