

Commission on Transformation and Innovation

Report to the Presbytery

December 2025

Presbytery action needed: none

Members of the commission: Shawn Barkley, Keith Benze (moderator), Lisa Culpepper, Darnaby Kerns, Jon Roller, Ginny Shanda, Juanita Spangler, and Mary Weese.

The purpose of the commission is to help transform current church congregations; to identify, develop, and establish new worshipping communities; and to provide resources and support for new worshipping communities. As a new commission, one of the important tasks is to make our church families aware of who we are, how we can work with our church families, and the resources that we can offer. In order to bring more awareness to our work we are leading worship at this presbytery meeting and offering some information during the business meeting.

We scheduled our second congregational gathering in September, but unfortunately the timing wasn't right and only a couple of churches were able to attend. We have postponed the meeting and will reschedule next year.

The commission is currently in discussion with 3 congregations. These congregations are finding new and exciting ways to be the church: providing meals to the community, partnering with other churches to serve the community, finding new ways to invite the community into the church by allowing community groups to use the facility, working with a homeschool community to provide support and resources, and much more. If anyone congregation would like to talk more about how the commission can help, please contact one of the commission members listed above.

We continue to pursue opportunities for new worshipping communities as we meet with our church families and learn more about their communities.

The commission continues to support Urban Village and A Gathering Place. Reports from these worshipping communities have been submitted separately by their leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith C. Benze