

“Day by day the congregations became stronger in faith and larger in size.”

Acts 16:5 (*The Message*)

June 30, 2008

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to inform you about Acts 16:5—a presbytery-wide initiative designed to empower your congregation to determine God’s call upon your present and future ministry. Enclosed you will find a brochure describing Acts 16:5 and a registration form for the introductory seminar on September 19-20 which will be held at Zionsville Presbyterian Church.

All Pastors and up to six church leaders from all of our presbytery’s congregations are urged to attend the September event. This is a stand-alone event for your congregation to discover God’s call upon your present and future ministry, and the launch event for the two-year Acts 16:5 Initiative in our Presbytery. (After attending Seminar 1, pastors and congregations will be invited to commit to the two-year Initiative.)

Presbytery will cover the most of the cost of the two-day seminar in September. The only cost to you will be a one time cost of \$20 per person for materials—materials that will be used at the September seminar and for the remaining two years of the initiative.

Stan Ott is the leader of the Acts 16:5 Initiative. Stan is devoting himself to the transformation of the mainline church through the work of the Vital Churches Institute. He also serves as the part-time Teaching Pastor of the Vienna Presbyterian Church in northern Virginia. As President of the Vital Churches Institute, Stan has taught principles of congregational vitality and leadership to thousands of people throughout the United States and abroad. The primary work of the Institute is the Acts 16:5 Initiative that guides entire presbyteries in coaching their congregations who seek a transformational ministry and a growing missional expression. He is the former pastor of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. He and a team of pastors and leaders from the Vital Churches Institute are currently working with some fifteen presbyteries across the country through the Acts 16:5 Initiative.

I’ve had the pleasure of seeing the Acts 16:5 Initiative at work in two of those fifteen presbyteries. I can attest to the positive effect Acts 16:5 has on churches and entire presbyteries as pastors and church leaders work together over a sustained period of time seeking to discover and implement God’s plan for their congregations.

Please consider taking part in the Acts 16:5 Initiative in Whitewater Valley Presbytery! If you have any questions about Acts 16:5, please be in touch with me or another member of the leadership team listed on the registration form.

Blessings,



Steve Ebling
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