**The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio**

***Revitalize Ohio* Process Overview**

**The Rev. Brad Purdom**

*Revitalize Ohio* brings together small groups of churches to work collaboratively and creatively towards renewed purpose and vitality for each congregation. Clergy and lay leaders join in a two year practical and contextually organic process of leadership development, education, planning, support and immediate action toward vital life and ministry.

***Keys to this ministry and growth approach***

* Incorporates education, best practices, and ideas from outside the congregation as well as within
* Takes advantage of group dynamics:
  + Ideally conducted in groups of 4-8 congregations, building relationships and accountability
  + Utilizes Bishop’s staff as appropriate/helpful throughout process
  + Utilizes other clergy/lay from diocese as appropriate/helpful throughout process
  + Utilizes outside resources/trainers/conferences as appropriate/helpful
* Is action-oriented throughout, and utilizes early successes as well as longer term planning and accountability to partnering congregations
* Is comprehensive, flexible over time, congregationally specific, and lasts long enough to ingrain new ways into life of congregation

***Overview of the two year process***

* **Step One (8 months):** Five meetings held every other month for the first eight months
  + Three components to each meeting: 1) training/education, 2) networking/relationship-building; 3) accountability/planning
  + On Saturdays, 5-6 hours long (about 3 hours of content and discussion, one hour of lunch/relationship, and 2 hours of accountability and planning), meetings rotate through participant congregations
  + The accountability/planning portion of the meeting consists primarily of each congregation developing a specific action plan for the next two months on the subject(s) of the meeting
* **Step Two (4 months):** Based on all work and experiences to date, each congregation develops and implements a 3/4 month action plan. Partner congregations meet midway by phone or in person for accountability and sharing.
* **Step Three (12 months):** Based on all work and experiences to date, each congregation develops and implements two successive six month action plans to move their congregation forward.
  + During this year, there are (at least) two Saturday meetings focusing on whatever the group chooses.
  + Partner congregations continue to meet by phone or in person for accountability and sharing. Celebration event at the end.

***Anticipated training focus for each of the five meetings***

1. Elements of Vital Congregations; adult faith formation; seeing/articulating God’s presence in our lives and in the world; assigning of parish research\*
2. Reports of parish research; pairing of congregational partners; leadership roles and development\*\*
3. Vital corporate worship; the role of “meaningful” fellowship
4. Invite/Welcome/Connect; stewardship
5. Meaningful Neighborhood/Congregation Relationships

*\* Typical research to accomplish during first two months* – Parish survey; neighborhood demographics; mystery shopping of each other’s congregations; visits and meetings with local schools, community development groups, first responders, etc.; analysis of last five years of Parochial Reports, financials; building condition review; stewardship review

\*\* *Leadership roles and development* – parish leadership theory and practice, clergy leadership teams between congregations, developing children/youth ministry leaders