

HIDDEN EMBERS

October 2014

Dear Friends,

If your congregation has a smaller membership, it is invited to participate in a process of discernment about the future. This short-term opportunity, ***Hidden Embers***, will be led by Rev. Drs. George and Beverly Thompson, our Presbytery's transformation coaches. In 2013, our Presbytery launched a congregational transformation process under the guidance of the Thompsons. Many churches have expressed interest, and one cohort of five churches currently is at work. However, this two-year commitment does not seem to be the best fit for our smaller congregations. And so, we now are offering ***Hidden Embers*** to churches like yours. Please note the specific information below about this opportunity and give prayerful consideration about participating.

PURPOSE: to provide a short-term opportunity for our smaller churches to awaken their spiritual imaginations and explore their futures

ACTIVITIES: fanning the hidden embers with Biblical reflection, spiritual practices, sharing stories, looking at community, praying for one another, etc.—in order to discover new possibilities through God's fresh call

TARGET: three to six churches, in close geographic proximity, with average Sunday worship attendance of no more than about 30 members.

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATION: two to three Session members, plus the C.R.E. or part-time stated supply (if there is one)

SCHEDULE: once a month meetings, two-and-one-half hours per session for six months; schedule to be determined once the churches are selected. *Congregations must commit to participating in the entire process.*

START DATE AND COST: February 16, 2014 \$450 which can be paid at the first meeting (for financial arrangements, contact Evan Harrison, chair, Committee for Congregational Revitalization and Transformation)

LOCATION AND TIME: to be arranged, based on selected churches

We hope that you will consider this process! Discovering the still glowing embers in your congregation may offer fresh and exciting understandings of who and what God calls your church to be and do. Please contact your Mission Coordinator if you have any questions.

To be considered, please contact your Mission Coordinator by Monday, December 1, 2014.

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