

Missional Renewal Commission Report  
Southern OH/KY District Board Meeting  
July 10, 2021

Missional Renewal met on 6/9/21 & 7/5/21

- We discussed and approved “Questions for Considering the New Normal”. (This document is page 2 of this report.)
  - These questions are for the purpose of helping leadership and congregations as they move forward into a post-pandemic context.
- On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Tara facilitated a discussion centered around “Questions for Considering the New Normal” during our District Leadership Thursday Zoom Gathering.
- In evaluating the June 24<sup>th</sup> discussion, Missional Renewal decided on three actions moving forward related to “Questions for Considering the New Normal”.
  - We will post the questions to the district website.
  - Dave Shetler will include the “Questions for Considering the New Normal” in his weekly email to district leadership. He will also invite congregations to contact Missional Renewal if they would like our assistance in processing these questions as they seek to move forward.
  - We will also send out a separate email calling attention to “Questions for Considering the New Normal with the accompanying invitation to contact the Missional Renewal Commission if guidance is desired.
- We discussed and approved our “narrative” to be submitted to the Resource Development Commission. (Our narrative follows below.)
  - Missional Renewal Commission Narrative: The Missional Renewal Commission’s purpose is to help congregations become more missional within their communities. We do this by offering resources and guidance to help congregations reach out more effectively. We also offer our support and encouragement to congregations as they seek renewal through finding new ways of being Jesus’ ambassadors in the neighborhood.

Submitted by Mike Yingst on behalf of the Missional Renewal Commission.

## Questions for Considering the New Normal

The concept that the Holy Spirit walks beside us presupposes that we are:

- *moving*.
- listening for the Voice of God
- aware of the work of the Holy Spirit
- attentive to what God would have us be about in the name of Jesus.

The pandemic and all the concerns around it have taken up much of our energy and time in the past year – but now what? It is time to ask what God would have us be about in the coming new normal.

Our real questions surround our mission:

What is our mission as we move forward?

What are the whispers of the Holy in our churches today?

What is it that God wants us to pay attention to in our community?

How can our eyes be opened to God's purposes for what is next?

The pandemic says – close your eyes...you have enough to think about with all that is going on... – God says “open your eyes for what is next and listen to the Holy Spirit.” In John 16:13 we read: <sup>13</sup> *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.* Declaring truth and speaking only what God tells the Spirit to speak – and importantly – declare to you the things that are to come.

How do we experience the Holy Spirit? Are we listening?

How are we cultivating the time, space, and attention to the Holy Spirit that is needed to listen for the urgings of God?

What is the Spirit doing in our lives as followers of Jesus?