

Dear Atlantic Central District Clergy,

In preparation for the Vitality Share Group Meetings in August and September, we would like to provide some additional guidance and ask you to complete a pre-meeting assignment. As a reminder, the goal of the Vitality Share Groups (VSG) is to improve the health and vitality of our local churches through the process of learning, sharing, and connecting with each other.

In order to support this goal, we are asking each of the District pastors to select some of your lay leadership to join you in participating in the VSG meetings. If possible, please try to select a cross section of people who have diverse experiences and tenure at your churches. To that end, your first assignment will be to bring a minimum of 5 laity with you to the meeting. The dates for the Vitality Share Group Meetings are as follows (please plan to arrive 30 minutes before the start time shown below for fellowship and refreshments):

<u>VSG Group Leader</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
Corky Calhoun	Georgianna UMC	August 26, 2017	9 AM - 12 PM
Doug McClain	Wesley Church	September 9, 2017	10 AM – 12 PM
Cliff Melvin	Christ by the Sea UMC	August 19, 2017	10 AM - 12 PM
Marta Burke	FUMC of Hobe Sound	August 12, 2017	10 AM - 12 PM
Dale Locke	Community of Hope	September 16, 2017	10 AM - 12 PM
Scott Smith	TBD – Volusia County	TBD – probably in October	

The focus of this first VSG meeting will be on planning. Gary Spencer and the Congregational Vitality Team will lead a discussion on the importance of planning and provide you with an example of a Strategic Planning Model. In addition, the VSG Group Leader will be contacting one or more churches in their VSG Group and asking them to share their experiences and insights on local church planning during the share group meeting. In order to support this discussion and complete the second assignment, we are asking District pastors to meet with their leadership teams and come to the VSG meeting prepared to share the answers to the following questions:

1. Does your church have a plan?
2. When was the plan developed?
3. Did the leadership team implement the plan?
4. Do you have a mission and vision?
5. Have you identified your churches top missional / ministry opportunities?
6. Do you have specific strategies and plans to support those missional / ministry opportunities?
7. Are you facing any barriers or challenges to implementing these plans?
8. Have you identified any tools or resources that helped you implement your plans?

During the share group meetings, we will have breakout sessions for the clergy and laity where we will have an opportunity to share our experiences, insights and answers to the above questions in a safe, loving environment. If each of us take advantage of this opportunity to make connections and share best practices, we believe that together we can strengthen the health and vitality of our churches and make a real difference in our communities (local, regional, and beyond). If you have any questions, please contact Gary Spencer or your VSG Leader (assigned VSG churches details below).