

**Commission on Ministry Innovation**  
**Report for Regional Board**  
**September 2020**  
**Submitted by Rev. Lois Kelley**

In August we welcomed three new members to our commission. They are Ms. Adria Patterson, Rev. Amy Shoemaker, and Rev. Terrell McTyre.

We are excited about our work going forward and helping churches to be innovative. To prepare us in our work, Delesslyn sent us various articles and videos on the topics of theology, innovation, and design thinking. We reviewed these articles and then spent time discussing them and how we can use this information to help churches use the model of design thinking.

We finished up our inaugural cohort and had 2 church planters complete the course and qualify for the stipend from the Bacon Fund. Delesslyn surveyed all those that were a part of the cohort. They were asked to name 3 expectations of the cohort, 3 things they received from the cohort, 1 highlight of the cohort experience, and 1 improvement for the next cohort. Overall it was a positive and helpful experience for those in the cohort and we will take the information from the surveys and the improvement ideas into the planning for our next cohort.

Some of us from the commission and new church planters will be attending the virtual Leadership Academy, presented by New Church Ministry, September 29 to Oct. 1.

After Leadership Academy we will begin designing the next cohort and start recruiting and launch the next cohort in the fall of 2021.