

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

We are beginning thematic focus groups. Each member of the commission can choose a group (or groups) that they are interested in and want to be a part of that area of the commission. These small groups will focus on their theme and bring information back to the whole group. The four areas of focus are New church/church planter cohort, Innovation/innovation circles and lecture series, Transformation, and Affiliation.

From our 2019/2020 cohort we had 2 churches complete the cohort and qualify for the grant. One of those pastors has accepted a call in Pennsylvania. That leaves us with 1 church that qualifies for the grant. That church will receive a grant of \$3,333 a month beginning in January 2021. The amount will be reduced each year for 3 years. The hope or idea is that by that time the church can be self sustaining.

We went over our goals for the next two years and are in agreement that they are worthwhile and attainable. We believe that with the changes brought on by the pandemic, more churches might be ready and open to our offers of help. These are our goals for the next two years.

- Innovation – 10 congregation innovation projects
- New Church – 3 new churches
- Transformation – 5 congregations
- Affiliation – Complete process with Broadway

Delesslyn shared with the commission the definitions regarding transformation and innovation. Transformation is doing the deep work of reviewing “what is God calling us to do in this season.” It is doing the work of mission, vision, and values looking at all areas of the church, for transforming. Innovation is the door to transformation. Congregations looking for innovation are not ready for the deep dive of transformation. Innovation is changing one area of their ministry. Such as helping them change/transform/redesign worship or their youth group, etc.