

Report of the New Worshiping Communities Commission

Action Items:

None at this time

For Information

- The New Worshiping Communities Commission (NWCC) has been at work since January 2023.
- In conversation with each other and our partners in this work we have identified three areas of focus:
 - Provide support and accountability to those who feel a call to start a new worshiping community.
 - Educate, engage and interest our established congregations about the work of new worshiping communities, planting creative seeds and creating connections.
 - Develop systems and processes in cooperation with other Presbytery committees, commissions, and staff to support the work of new worshiping communities.

Below are the specific actions we have taken in each focus area:

Provide support and accountability to those who feel a call to start a new worshiping community.

- Met with Kevin Long (candidate certified ready pending a call) and Rev. Kelly Wiant to discuss their sense of call to the work of starting an NWC and get a sense of what their work looks like right now.
 - Kevin Long has begun gathering the Intertwined Faith Community in the Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry County area. It is focused on environmental justice.
 - Rev. Kelly Wiant is in a period of discernment about starting a new worshiping community.
- Approved a preliminary budget for Intertwined Faith Community
- Approved the submission of the Synod Innovation Grant to support the work of Intertwined Faith Community
- Supported Kevin in the development of a specific job description for the organizing pastor of Intertwined Faith Community.
- Approved 25K from the New Worshiping Communities Fund to support the work of Intertwined Faith Community (See final bullet point about our work with the Administration Committee)

Educate, engage and interest our established congregations about the work of new worshiping communities, planting creative seeds and creating connections.

- Brainstormed ideas for engaging our established congregations including in person Sunday morning opportunities, workshops, and a potential podcast!

Develop systems and processes in cooperation with other Presbytery committees, commissions, and staff to support the work of new worshipping communities.

- Met with COM during their consultation hour to discuss pathways by which an organizing pastor might be ordained to their work.
- We are in the process of coordinating with the Administration Committee to determine the appropriate way to manage funds approved for the work of specific NWCs.

We also met with Rev. Michael Gerhling, the regional associate with 1001 New Worshipping Communities for our area, who helped us navigate some of our ongoing questions and who will continue to be a resource for our Presbytery as we go about this work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Allison Smith
NWCC chair