

Church Vitality Working Group

Annual Report 2019

Church Vitality hosts PastorLab in a pastoral and clergy support for NJ Association UCC pastors and affiliates. We meet regular to offer instruction, coaching, and fellowship to the many pastors and clergy who serve our NJ churches. Each year we meet for luncheons and retreats. We also provide free access to all clergy and staff to the Practical Resources for Churches website. This website has webinars that discusses, instructs, and offers nuts and bolts ministry education. Any NJ UCC church may access this site at www.prcli.org.

This past year, we were excited to host the 2018 Fall Gathering. There, we had Dave Jacobs, a small church consultant lead the meeting and share with us how small churches can thrive in their settings. He offered great wisdom, funny anecdotes, and keen advice for our churches, pastors, and lay persons.

Our PastorLab clergy support group looked a bit different this past year. We met in January at our annual Clergy retreat. It was led by NJ's best community organizer Antoine Archange. We also met for fellowship, great food, and a relaxing time.

Then, we met monthly for clergy lunches at the 6 Brothers Diner in Little Falls, NJ. Meeting monthly, about 5-7 clergy prayed, fellowshiped, swapped ideas, and ate together. This effort was meant to be a break from the seasonal luncheons we had done. After some evaluation and decline in monthly attendance, the PastorLab seasonal lunches will return and the monthly lunches will cease.

We have a great group of leaders with PastorLab. They are Joel Biggers, Damaris Ortega, Sarah Welch-Pomerantz, and myself. We will be meeting shortly to plan next year's luncheons and January retreat. If you would like more information about PastorLab or to refer you pastor to this network, please let me know.

If you are a new pastor (or an old seasoned one) and would like to join our support network, please send me an email, join our Closed Group on Facebook, and I'll get you signed up. This is a great way to fellowship and enjoy other pastors in our association.

Graciously Submitted,

David C. Bocock