



# URBAN MINISTRY TRAINING PROGRAM

## GOALS

- to engage in a serious evaluation of the nature and role of the church in its context
- to develop a "Gospel Project" designed to immerse the church in neighborhood ministry
- to BE the church, not necessarily save the structure of the church.
- to enrich the work of each individual church and pastor(s) through interaction with other sites

## THE ONSITE TEAM

- the pastor(s) serving a church in an urban setting
- 5 - 7 lay people that includes both congregation members and at least one individual from the local community who is not active in the church but who is open to the work of the church
- team must be made up of individuals willing to be open to new directions
- the team should include people from the margins of the congregation and not just established leaders

## THE COVENANT

- Pastors will commit to a two year term of study and action and will not ask for a move during that time
- Cabinet will be requested to keep the Pastor in place during the process, and preferably, for at least one year following.
- Pastors will recruit the team (see above)
- The Onsite Team will fully participate in all training events
- The Onsite Team will engage in a Gospel Study on a bi-weekly basis with the understanding this study is part of the discernment of the church's on-going project. After the first year this may reduce from bi-weekly to monthly.
- The Onsite team will meet monthly for study and action. This is in addition to the Biblical Study.
- The Onsite team will conduct a situational analysis of their immediate neighborhood, including census data, neighborhood walks, and community interviews.
- The Onsite Team will be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- The Onsite Team will participate in regular regional meetings/trainings and the occasional Conference-wide meeting
- The church will pay \$500 over the course of the project to contribute to the costs. (This can be paid over a 3 year period.)
- Both the Church Council and District Superintendent will sign indicating agreement to the Covenant

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- design and implement at least one new ministry as a result of the work of the Onsite Team
- use an action-reflection model to evaluate the new ministry/ministries in order to refine, enhance or end said ministry/ministries.
- share the stories of the church's experience with UMTF at Annual Conference.
- continue to participate in an on-going, conference-wide community of urban ministry practitioners.

## SUPPORT

- ongoing training and mentoring from experienced urban ministry practitioners
- monies from the Urban Ministry grant will be used to supplement costs for the Urban Ministry Training Program
- access to an Urban Ministry grant to provide support for the new ministry/ministries developed by the Onsite Teams. (Funding is contingent upon completion of the 2 year Urban Ministry Training Program.)
- Regional and Conference-wide trainings will be planned and organized by the UMTP Design Team

## TIMELINE

<b>Prior to May 2014</b>	Interested pastors/churches meet with one of the UMTP Design Team members for further conversation and to learn how to become part of the UMTP.
<b>May 13-14 or May 14-15</b>	Attend one of the first training/learning session led by The Rev. Dr. John Vincent, Director Emeritus of the Urban Theology Unit (UTU) of Sheffield, England, and The Rev. Noel Irwin, Director of UTU and Pastor of Victoria Hall Methodist Church in Sheffield.
<b>Early June 2014</b>	Onsite Teams begin meeting for Bible study bi-weekly
<b>Mid-June 2014</b>	Onsite Teams begin work on their Situational Analysis
<b>June, July &amp; August 2014</b>	Onsite Teams and church members engage in a series of neighborhood walks
<b>September 2014</b>	Regional meeting (to share learnings/challenges)
<b>November 2014</b>	Regional meeting
<b>February 2015</b>	Conference/Regional meeting to share insights, developments, successes, and obstacles. This may include but not be limited to: 1) refining the situational analysis, 2) undertake a church analysis to discern strengths/weaknesses/openness to change, 3) onsite teams sharing their new learnings with the larger group and church leadership 4) begin process of developing grant proposals for new ministry/ministries
<b>May 2015</b>	Regional meeting
<b>September 2015</b>	Regional meeting
<b>February 2016</b>	Conference-wide meeting: Where do we go from here?

**Contact Rick McKinley at the Office of Congregational Development to be connected with the nearest UMTP Design Team Member ([rickm@neumc.org](mailto:rickm@neumc.org) or 781-534-2234)**