

EVANGELISM DIVISION

(Evangelism, Transformation and New Church Development Committees)

The Division is excited about its leadership efforts with the Acts 16:5 Initiative, a potential multi-cultural effort in the Presbytery, and innovative initiatives at the Conover New Church Development.

ACTS INITIATIVE

Around 350 people attended the Acts Initiative presentations in March and May. Thirty-five of our 112 churches have committed to a biblically and prayer based process of renewal, growth and transformation. Acts Initiative has the potential to help the churches and our Presbytery grow deeper in our faith, look at new ways we can reach out to those who do not have a church or a relationship with Jesus Christ and show Christ's love in action. We rely on the Holy Spirit to bring growth and change in our lives and the life of each congregation.

The Acts Initiative process focuses on:

- REACHING out to those not in church and to those attending, but not involved;
- GROWING in faith and discipleship, and
- SENDING people out to demonstrated God's love and justice.

The Division is committed to REACH, GROW, AND SEND as foundational principles, for those churches involved in the ACTS Initiative, as well as those churches not involved and for the Presbytery as a whole.

On **September 12, 2009**, the teams from the churches who are committed to the Acts Initiative will meet for a day of learning, sharing, planning and praying, together with Stan Ott and Linda Jaberg. We will have time for prayer, fellowship, good laughter and fun. It will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Morganton.

The Presbytery has been able to provide scholarship money to those churches needing assistance. The participating churches are small and large and theologically diverse. Each has their unique gifts and challenges.

If you have other questions, please feel free to call Joan Martin, chair of Transformation Committee, Becky Stanley, chair of Evangelism, or the Presbytery office.

MULTI-CULTURAL MISSION/NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The Evangelism Division heard Luke Harkey and John McCall present a vision for a multi-cultural mission/new church development in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. The vision grew from John Mc McCall's experience in Taiwan and a discussion from the Acts Initiative. John is feeling a call to that kind of ministry. He is uniquely qualified because of his experience as a seminary professor in Taiwan and a pastor in local church. He taught peaching, worship, and ministry and was the head of the Spirituality Center. He previously was the pastor of the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and led them to grow spiritually and numerically.

The Evangelism Division approved the concept of a Multi-cultural mission/New Church Development. However, there is no financial support at this time in the budget. The Division set up a team to work and try to find funding for this project, through grants or over and above gifts. They also talked of discernment as to location. The Division was excited about this vision for the Presbytery.

NEW VISION CHURCH - CONOVER NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The New Vision Church is reaching out into the community by providing about 70 backpacks of weekend food weekly for children at one of the elementary schools in Conover. They are also reaching out through weekly radio spots. Each radio spots has a very brief message and then an invitation to come visit the New Vision Church.