

**ITEM D.201
FOR INFORMATION**

New Beginnings Update

As of the end of 2013, we have worked with a total of 231 churches (located in 35 different presbyteries) since launching the first pilot cluster in 2010. (The break out by year and by presbytery can be found at the end of this report). The original design was to work with a cluster of churches, organized and supported by presbyteries while at the same time responding to requests from individual churches as time permitted. Twenty-three of the first 231 were individual requests. In 2014, we have already worked with or have definitely scheduled 69 churches (through the end of March). We are scheduled to be working with 18 new presbyteries as well as some for the second time. We currently have nine individual churches done or scheduled in 2014.

As we approached the end of 2013, we knew that the work we needed to focus on putting in place an automatic and regular follow up/reporting process (which would give us better numbers on actual decisions being made), a more efficient administrative process, sharing of more stories of the effects of New Beginnings, a Hispanic language version of New Beginnings, and coaching support for congregational leaders.

We had our first run at using New Beginnings with Spanish speaking congregations in early 2014. We trained a handful of bilingual assessors and had them do their first assessments with churches in the Palisades Presbytery. We owe a debt of gratitude to Clare Lewis and her staff in Congregational Ministries Publishing, as they were absolutely wonderful in responding to our need for translated materials on a more than ideal time line. They translated our resources beautifully. We will be debriefing this first round of Spanish speaking churches with the assessors and congregational leaders later this year so we can be ready to do more in the future.

The other issues mentioned above, have been more challenging to address as number of churches requesting the process increases. We have had to put our work with any new individual churches on hold until May 2014 so we can make sure we are not overloading our current staff. We are in the process of restructuring our training model for single churches to allow for a more cost effective (money and time) way of accomplishing that portion of the process. This means training more people who can lead the leadership training portion of the process. We are doing this in partnership with The Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ.

Capacity building has been a theme for 2014. We are currently staffed to handle the same number of churches we did in 2013 yet 2014 has seen an exponential increase that is causing us to look at many ways to make the process more effective and allows us to implement, a better follow up plan, coaching and overall engagement with New Beginnings Churches. 2014 is our year to create and implement that process.

We are excited about the plan to run our first ecumenical cluster later in 2014. Our fellow collaborators (The Disciple of Christ Church and the UCC) and we are inviting churches in Texas do use New Beginnings and be trained in a cross-denominational way.

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We are moving into 2014 with a healthy challenge in front of us but very excited about the need this process is clearly touching. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to a productive year that will bring hope to ever more congregations looking for guidance.

How many churches have gone through New Beginnings to date?

Break out by year:

2010: 6

2011: 39

2012: 90

2013: 96

(Total through 2013: 231)

2014: actual scheduled/done through March: 69

Estimated with current clusters on the calendar: 128

Which Presbyteries are these churches in?

Presbyteries served through 2013: 35 different presbyteries (in alphabetical order)

Baltimore	Northern New England
Cascades *	Pacific
Cayuga-Syracuse	Pines
Chicago	Pueblo
Coastal Carolina *	Sacramento
Denver	San Fernando
Eastern Oklahoma	San Gabriel
Genesee Valley	Seattle *
Giddings-Lovejoy	South Louisiana
Glacier	St. Andrew *
Heartland *	Susquehanna Valley
Hudson River	Transylvania *
Los Ranchos	Tres Rios *
Maumee Valley	Tropical Florida
Mid-Kentucky *	Western New York
Middle Tennessee	Western Reserve
National Capital	White water Valley *
Newton	

** = only churches one at a time in that presbytery have done NB (the rest have sponsored clusters of churches that have ranged from 2 to 21 churches!)*

New Presbyteries being served/scheduled for 2014: 18 so far (alphabetical order)

Boston	San Diego
Grace	San Francisco
Lackawanna	Santa Fe
Northeast Georgia *	Scioto Valley
Northern Kansas *	Tampa Bay
Northern Plains	The James *
Palisades	Washington
Palo Dura *	Western North Carolina
Pittsburgh	Wyoming

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How many individual churches have done NB?

Break out by year:

2010: 0
2011: 3
2012: 5
2013: 15
2014: 9

How many clusters have been run each year?

Break out by year:

2010: 1
2011: 4
2012: 11
2013: 17 scheduled