

**ITEM D.201  
FOR INFORMATION**

**NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE**

[whatisourfuturestory.com](http://whatisourfuturestory.com)

The numbers tell a lot of the story and you can see the detailed data at the end of this report. By early 2014, when we last reported, we could see that the demand was quickly rising and believe it or not, we slowed things down by instituting a temporary shutdown of service to individual churches. We did not accept any individual church requests for service between March and May, so that helped take some of the pressure off for a bit.

We have spent the past few months working on capacity building in addition to just providing the service. We have known since the beginning that we needed a regular follow up process, which would give us better numbers on actual decisions being made and allow us to offer more support and guidance in the decision phase of the process. Up until now we have been unable to focus on this due to how fast the demand has risen. All of us have been running full speed just to keep up with the front end of the process. Recently, we expanded the hours and job expectations for one person on our team which will give us time to develop the back end of this process!

Another capacity building piece of work has been recruiting and equipping contract trainers. Up until now, Philip Lotspeich and Ann Philbrick were the primary trainers with support from an Executive Presbyterian who has volunteered a small amount of time. We are developing a handful of people who will also will be able to do training and available on a contract basis. This will be another piece in the sustainability puzzle.

We have seen that we would either need to keep it really small (as our Disciple of Christ friends did) or grow quickly to meet demand and put enough support in place to keep up with a larger volume for as long as it was demanded. By small, we mean doing around 30 a year. We have chosen to get it out there as fast as we can. We are convinced that the more the denomination is viewed as helping its existing churches (especially the ones who are struggling) the more energy and support there will be for things like 1001 New Worshipping Communities.

Still on our plate for this year: debriefing the first round that included our Spanish version of New Beginnings, launching of coaching resources for New Beginnings congregational leaders, finishing the training of and begin using the contract trainers.

We are excited about the plan to run our first ecumenical cluster in September 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.

**Information on New Beginnings as of August 2014:**

*(Previous year's numbers have been adjusted slightly due to consolidation of record keeping in the office)*

**How many churches have gone through New Beginnings to date?**

Break out by year:

2010: 7

2011: 34

**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD**  
**September 17-19, 2014**  
**Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Area**

2012: 95  
2013: 92  
Total Through 2013: 228  
2014: actual scheduled/done: 134

Impact of New Beginnings (approximate numbers)  
Total churches 362      Pastors trained 362  
Leaders trained 3,600      Members engaged in small groups 20,000

**Which Presbyteries are these churches in?**

Presbyteries served through 2013: 36 different presbyteries (Alphabetical order)

Baltimore	Newton
Boise	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 Western New
Mid-Kentucky *	York
Middle Tennessee	Western Reserve
National Capital	Whitewater Valley *

*\* = 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!)*

**Additional** Presbyteries being served/scheduled for 2014: 20 so far (Alphabetical order)

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