

What People Are Saying

“The ecclesiastical landscape is littered with failed church renewal and improvement programs. The VCI approach is very different. First, it starts with the congregation’s strengths, not weaknesses. The fastest way to help real change and growth happen is to focus on the strengths already there and build on them.

Second, within that context, VCI then sets out prescriptions for areas to help a congregation grow in both members and ministry. These prescriptions, though, arise not from the mouth of some theoretically infallible church consultant (!), but from the congregation’s members themselves.

Third, VCI builds an accountability.

A timeline is set for the accomplishment of each prescription, along with resources and coaching. In this way, the congregation is not only owning the process but actively working to bring it about in a manageable but relatively short time frame.” - Dr. Steve Wende VCI Coach

“VCI showed us the path to take to become the church that God wants it to be. If God has put it in your heart to move your church forward for the Kingdom of God then VCI is for you.”
—Rev. Hazel Jackson Pastor of Ashford UMC, a Church that recently completed VCI

How do we get started?

Step 1 The pastor and leadership from your church get together and prayerfully consider if your church is willing to investigate a process of renewal and revitalization.

Step 2 The pastor or church leader contacts the Center for Congregational Excellence to set up a presentation to church leadership.

Step 3 Soon after the presentation and asking questions of CCE Staff the church leadership votes as to proceed with the VCI process or not.

Things to Know

Individual congregations can enter into the process at any time.

The bulk of the expense for this process is an investment of apportionment dollars into Vibrant healthy Congregations.

The financial commitment of a congregation is based on a sliding scale but financial concerns will never prevent any congregation from participating.

Want more info?

713-521-9383



vibrantchurch
I N I T I A T I V E



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Congregational Excellence

Texas Conference of the
United Methodist Church

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The Vibrant Church Initiative (VCI) helps your church to discover and then become the unique church that God is calling your church to become.

1 Congregational Health

VCI is for Healthy Churches

VCI is at its best when working with already healthy churches. This process is ideal to help churches figure out “what is next” or help a church to break through a barrier to get to the next level.

2 Realistic Evaluation of the Church

Consultation Team Digs Deep Into the Workings of Your Church

A team of trained consultants will meet with the pastor, staff, laity and the self study information provided by the church for an in-depth analysis. The team will present the church’s strengths, areas of concern and prescriptions for change (*5 for churches worshipping more than 125, 3 for churches worshipping less than 125*) that will promote congregational growth and vibrancy. If the church conference votes to accept the report of the Consultation Team (*3/4’s vote*), they start a 12 to 18 month process of implementation.

3 VCI is There for You and Your Church

You Are Not Alone

The truly unique aspect of the VCI process is that no church or pastor is left on their own. VCI provides a specially trained coach that works with the pastor and the church leaders to complete the prescribed changes. Our coaches are proven clergy (both active and retired) and gifted lay people with a passion for helping churches become more vibrant. Our coaches serve as an accountability partner, a cheerleader and a wise sage throughout the prescription implementation time frame.