



*“Providing a legacy to make disciples
in this and future generations”*

**THE CHURCH LEGACY INITIATIVE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. *What is the Church Legacy Initiative?*

The Church Legacy Initiative (CLI) is a ministry of the Western North Carolina Conference, supported by a grant from The Duke Endowment. The purpose of CLI is to assist churches in making faithful decisions about their future and providing a legacy which will help to make disciples in this and future generations. The vision for CLI is that it will play an important role in the Church Vitality process for the Western North Carolina Conference as churches discern the faithful path God is calling them to follow and new life emerges through the revitalization of existing churches and the creation of new faith communities.

2. *How will churches be identified for participation in the Church Legacy Initiative?*

Some pastors and laity will see the benefit of their church entering into a systematic process of assessment and discernment, and they may contact CLI directly. Other churches will be identified through a collaborative process involving CLI team members, the District Superintendent and the Church Vitality Strategist for the district. CLI will never begin work with a church without the support and approval of the District Superintendent.

3. *Is CLI as interested in revitalized churches as in Legacy churches?*

Absolutely! CLI meets with a church for the purpose of helping them discern the faithful path that God is calling them to follow. Many churches will discern that they have resources and the opportunity for revitalization, and we will celebrate with them as they make a commitment to that faithful path. Some churches may determine that they do not have sufficient resources or realistic possibilities for revitalization and they may decide that becoming a Legacy Church is the faithful path for them to follow. CLI is glad to provide counsel and support for either outcome.

4. *If a church chooses to make a commitment to revitalization, are any resources available to provide support and guidance?*

Yes. The Conference website provides much information about various resources which may be available (<http://vital.wnccumc.org/pathways-to-vitality/>). Monetary grants may be available through the District and the Conference Vitality Teams. And, the Church Vitality Strategist for your District may be available as a resource to assist in developing a strategy for revitalization.

5. *What is the legacy of a church which chooses to become a Legacy Church?*

The Legacy begins with the history of a church touching hearts, changing lives and making a difference for Christ in a community. Their Legacy continues as a church discerns that in their current circumstances the most faithful choice they can make is to discontinue use of their facility and with loving generosity make their assets available to be used for creating new life within the district and Conference through new ministries, new church starts, new faith communities/expressions and the revitalization of existing churches. This faithful generosity enables a Legacy Church to continue impacting lives for Christ in places and times beyond the present.

6. *Whom should I contact if I would like to explore the possibility of CLI working with my church?*

CLI team members have responsibility for different areas in our Conference. Below is a list of team members with their contact information and the districts which they serve. Please feel free to contact the team member serving in your area, and that team member will be glad to talk with you about how CLI can best serve your church.

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