



# Questions and Answers

## *Vital Ministry Journey*

**Q:** A journey, you say. So where does this journey go?

**A:** The destination is renewal of our life and mission as a congregation and the deepening of our spiritual lives individually.

**Q:** That sounds inviting, and ambitious as well. I'm curious as to who our tour guide will be.

**A:** Well, ultimately the Spirit of God. But the details of the journey have been designed by good friends at Congregational Life Ministries, Church of the Brethren.

**Q:** Can you say a bit more about some of the things that take place on this journey?

**A:** The journey begins with participants gathering in groups of 3-5 persons for Bible study, sharing, and prayer, using an easy-to-follow guide prepared by CLM.

**Q:** How many gatherings are we talking about?

**A:** Each group meets six times over a two-month period, at a time convenient for the participants.

**Q:** You know our lives are quite busy. Will we have time for more meetings?

**A:** A good question! To help create the time we need, the church board is proposing that we take a meeting "Sabbath," a time free of meetings of the board, ministry groups, and other such groups.

**Q:** Would I be right in assuming that the more who participate, the greater the impact on our life as a congregation?

**A:** Correct. So our goal is to have as many of our residential members as possible taking the journey together.

**Q:** Just a couple more questions: Will we be the only ones taking the journey?

**A:** No. A number of other Brethren congregations have already embarked.

**Q:** So, when do we decide whether **WE** want to embark?

**A:** Are you **READY NOW?**

*Congregational Life Ministries is here for you!*

*For further information contact:*

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## Next Steps to Getting Started

### 1) DECIDE:

- Share Vital Ministry Journey with congregational leadership and congregation.
- Congregational leadership decision to participate in Vital Ministry Journey.

### 2) INFORM:

- Inform District Executive Minister of leadership decision to participate in Vital Ministry Journey.
- Leadership updates membership and shares Phase 1 information with church.
- Church leadership calls out a Vital Ministry Journey team to work with process.
  - The VMJ Team should consist of 4-6 people. Team should include the pastor, members of leadership team and people with “people with passion.”
  - People with passion are persons with a growing faith and see the congregation’s potential. They may not necessarily hold an official leadership position in the church.
- Pastor is connected with a coach.

### 3) PLAN:

- Approximately 30-45 days for this step.
- VMJ Team meets to form its purpose and key goals.
- VMJ Team identifies best way for congregation to organize Bible study groups. Communicates with leadership.
- VMJ Team designs plan to contact and invite congregation to participate in Bible study.
- VMJ Team works with leadership to identify and call Bible study group facilitators.
- Group facilitators trained. Contact district office to schedule training.

### 4) INVITE:

- Approximately 30 days for this step.
- Implement plan to invite-people to participate in Bible study.
- Group facilitator contacts group members to confirm location and time of first session.

### 5) GO:

- The journey begins with Study, Sharing & Prayer – 6 sessions over 60 days.
- VMJ Team plans fellowship gathering for Bible study facilitators and participants.

*For further information contact:*

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