

Hot Off the Press! 1/19/14



Five Focuses for a New Year

by Dana Allin
Synod Executive

Happy New Year! It is exciting to reflect on how far ECO has come in the last couple of years. We launched in January 2012 and had our first congregation join in May 2012. Fast forward to today, and our total number of member churches has passed 100! As we cross this milestone and launch into 2014, I want to articulate five areas of focus for ECO this year.

1. New Presbyteries: We are in the process of multiplying from two into nine presbyteries. ECO began with the Presbytery of the East and Presbytery of the West, but our growth necessitates more differentiation - and we pray it also results in more connectionalism for congregations. We are devoting energy this month to helping the new presbyteries launch well and equipping leaders to navigate challenges that emerge.

2. Church Planting: Church planting is a core initiative of ECO. Since most churches didn't come into ECO with an aggressive church-planting DNA, we have to work hard to help them embrace and invest in it, as well as build up a pipeline of church planters. It has been fun to partner with congregations and see their imagination for church planting grow.

3. Congregational Vision: We are committed to helping congregations determine "what is next" after they enter ECO. Going through discernment and dismissal can be an arduous, emotionally taxing process. Leaders of these churches need to balance helping their congregations heal from the process, while also leading them into a new context. I have been doing retreats and gatherings to help churches live into the reality of ECO. Other churches are engaging with our Missional Leader and Coach Training process or finding value in a Mission Affinity Group. Still others are engaging strategic consultants or investing in the Elder Leadership Institute. We want to expand opportunities for training, both inside ECO and The Fellowship of Presbyterians, as well as outside our tribe.

4. International Missions: I am so thankful for the ministry of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (led by Bill Young, an ECO Pastor), as well as The Outreach Foundation and The Antioch Partners, who are collectively functioning as the international mission arm of ECO. They are very proficient at training missionaries and finding spots where people can serve and use their gifts. They are helping us identify 2-4 international projects for ECO as a whole to focus on. We don't want to take away from what a church is already doing just to join an ECO project; however, if a church is looking for ways to begin or deepen involvement in foreign mission, we'd love to work together. You can read my recent blog in which I shared a vision for this process and about my trip to the Middle East. These three partner organizations are also available to work with your church individually and be a resource for those considering the mission field.

5. Churches in Transition: We continue to work with congregations discerning their future denominational relationship. More than 120 more churches have declared they plan to join ECO once dismissed, and many others are still deciding whether or not to affiliate with ECO. Our goal is never to persuade people to join ECO, but to faithfully communicate who we are and help their leadership discern if ECO is a good fit. While I lead a fair amount of these types of meetings with churches, I am thankful for the increasing number of volunteers who can represent ECO well.

There is a lot ahead of us in this new year! I pray for all of us in the ECO movement. As we launch ahead, I'm eager both to share updates and hear stories of the great things God is doing in your churches!

In Christ,
Dana

Hot Off the Press online: www.chpc.org

LEARN from DR. KIRK and
EXPERIENCE
THE TRANSFORMING POWER of
PRAYER
with others from the Tri-State area.



NO FEES
for planning purposes, please register

3 Mondays: Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & Feb. 10
7-9pm

Here at College Hill Presbyterian Church

(513) 541-5676 to register and for child care.

Online registration at
www.chpc.org/prayercovenant

40 DAY
PRAYER
COVENANT

January 19 - January 25 calendar

19. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children's Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 206
	• ASF	Various
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:15pm	Lunch Bunch	Walt's BBQ
6:30pm	CRASH Overnight	BC 205 & 206

20. monday

Campus Closed
MLK Day

21. tuesday

9:30am	Tuesday AM Bible Study	Parlor
6:30pm	Super Choir	Fellowship Hall

22. wednesday

9:30am	Library Work Day	BC 103
	Strategy For Mothers Planning	Fireside Room
5:30pm	Boy Scouts	Clubroom
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group	Great Hall
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Writer's Meeting	Fireside Room
	Kindling Prayer Group	White House

23. thursday

8:30am	Prayer	Prayer Room
10:00am	Knitting Group	Atrium
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
6:45pm	3C's Family Science Night	BC 106
7:00pm	Choir	Choir Room
	ACA Meeting	Clubroom
7:30pm	Alanon	BC 201 & 202

24. friday

6:00am	Friday Morning Men	Fireside Room
--------	--------------------	---------------

25. saturday

8:30am	CHPC Men's Ministry and House of Joy	The Rock
--------	--------------------------------------	----------

The following assistive devices are available
Please ask the ushers if you need wheelchair seating or special hearing equipment. Also, handicapped accessible bathrooms are located to the right of the platform in the hallway leading to the white house parking lot.

Children and Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service. Then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service.

This week's helpers are:
9:00am Jason McSwain & Sarah Lowe
11:15am Nathan & Jared Lowe
(Winget family will greet)

Next week's helpers are:
9:00am Ian & Joshua Scheid
11:15am Michael & Marissa Fox
(Michelle Dyson will greet)