



The UPPER NEW YORK Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

	2010 DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015
% of Highly Vital Cong. (% of high vital congregations compared to total # of congregations)	6.6%	6.6%	9%	12%	15%

Worship (Average worship attendance)	51,864	51,864	52,728	53,592	54,4457
Evangelism (Number of people who will join by profession of faith)	2,020	2020	2053	2086	2121
Spiritual Formation (Number of small groups, Sunday school classes and Bible studies.)	5,594	5594	5687	5780	5874
Missions (Number of people from the congregation engaged in local, national and international mission/outreach)	3,724	3724	3786	3849	3910
Stewardship (The total amount given by your congregation to other organizations for support of benevolent and charitable ministries (this amount includes apportionments paid and support for all United Methodist and non-United Methodist organizations active in work such as advocacy, education, health, justice, mercy, outreach, and welfare anywhere in the world)	\$12,953,280	\$13,000,000	\$13,216,675	\$13,433,322	\$13,650,000

Historical Data

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Worship	60,066	58,403	55,257	54,568
Evangelism	2,734	2,307	2,494	2,049
Spiritual Formation				5,438
Missions	1,030	966	944	2,924
Stewardship	\$16,024,269	\$17,788,256	\$16,874,274	\$11,596,754

UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Vital Congregations Goal Card - Narrative Report

“[Jesus] told them, “The harvest is plentiful ...” Luke 10:2

The United Methodist Church’s “Call to Action” report (CTA) expressed the adaptive challenge facing our Church this way:

To redirect the flow of attention, energy, and resources to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Though focused broadly on United Methodism across the country, this statement also speaks directly to the central challenge facing the Upper New York Annual Conference. United Methodists in Upper New York are alarmed by years of numerical and spiritual decline, yet hopeful that we can, with God’s help, reverse this trend as vital congregations - both new faith communities and renewed existing congregations - extend United Methodist witness by “living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and being God’s love with our neighbors in all places.” Indeed, our success or failure as an Annual Conference may be measured in terms of how fearlessly, effectively and tenaciously we undertake this challenge.

Plentiful Harvest, a comprehensive approach for new and renewing congregations, seeks to concentrate our financial and human resources to revitalize 300 existing congregations and plant 100 new faith communities over the next Quadrennium (2013-2016). *Plentiful Harvest* is the fruit of the conversations and shared vision of multiple conference teams (Conference Leadership Team, Conference Board of Trustees, New Faith Communities Team, and UNY Extended Cabinet), conference staff and General Church resource persons.

The three components that make up *Plentiful Harvest* are:

- *Hand to the Plow (H2P)* - Congregational Revitalization Project: will align the attention, energy and resources (spiritual, financial and human) for strategic interventions in 300 existing congregations determined to have high potential for a sustained renewal of effective disciple-making ministry. During the next Quadrennium 25 congregations / district will participate in a three-year process of transformation aimed at renewing disciple-making ministries in the congregation. The H2P Project will be overseen by a new dedicated staff person (Director of Vital Congregations) serving as an associate in the Office of Connectional Ministries.
- *New Seeds* - New Faith Community Development Strategic Plan: plant 100 new faith communities (house churches, daughter congregations, vital mergers, re-starts and brick and mortar new church starts) during the coming Quadrennium. New Seeds will be overseen by a new dedicated staff person (Director of New Faith Communities)

serving as an associate in the Office of Connectional Ministries. Her/his responsibilities will include oversight of UNY's proposed Academy of New and Renewing Congregations, a conference-based training/learning environment designed to equip lay and clergy leaders for new faith community planting. Academy will open in Fall 2013.

- *New Beginnings Fund* - Use of Net Proceeds from Closed Churches: setting aside the net proceeds from closed churches to be used to renew existing congregations (H2P) and plant new faith communities (New Seeds).