

VCI in the Presbytery of Riverside --- Progress Report – August 2020
By Rob Stewart, VCI Coordinator

HIGHLIGHTS of first 18 months:

1. Presbytery of Riverside is selected to be among first 14 presbyteries to inaugurate VCI in early 2019
2. 18 people from Riverside Presbytery attended Introduction to VCI in Denver, May 2019
3. Six attended training in Baltimore in August 2019; 4 form a VCI Team for the presbytery
4. VCI Team contacts nearly all pastors of congregations, invite them to join VCI in 2020
5. Clergy retreat has 20 clergy participating, with at least 13 interested in VCI; several agreed to participate, Oct '19
6. Presbytery chooses emphasis on Relationships for 2020
7. Presbytery hires Rob Stewart to Coordinate VCI over 3 years beginning Oct 4, 2019
8. VCI Team meets 3 times and lays out a plan in late 2019 and early 2020
9. VCI Team calls or meets with pastoral leaders and several sessions to discuss VCI
10. Ten congregations agree to engage the VCI process, beginning January 2020
11. Rob Stewart made 2 reports to presbytery: Nov 2019, June 2020
12. Rob writes at least bi-monthly in presbytery's online news and adds info to new website, all 2020
13. Rob begins convening monthly 4 cohorts involving 20 pastoral leaders in Jan 2020.
14. 2 Facilitators led workshop "What is VCI" at LEaD; May 2020: 2 attended (both already in VCI)
15. Rob prepares various resources for pastors, sessions, and congregations including summarizing how the VCI process can be implemented
16. Rob is participating in ongoing regular Wednesday VCI national zoom chats and monthly Facilitator connections.
17. At least 4 congregations completed the VCI Bible Study in spring 2020.
18. Two VCI congregations lose pastors in summer 2020; Interims are put in place; now compiling & writing Mission Assessments into autumn, aiming to select new pastors
19. Evaluation of the cohorts after six months was accomplished with colleagues urging their continuation. Many expressed appreciate for the opportunities to pray, to share personally and professionally their struggles, successes, and hopes. Relationships and trust are deepening.