

November 7, 2008

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders,

I am writing to give you an update concerning the Local Church Vital Signs Assessment that was scheduled to be available on line by early October. You will remember that at Annual Conference we adopted the recommendation,

That every local church shall complete an assessment of its own vitality no later than December 15, 2008 using the assessment tools provided in *Vital Signs: A Pathway to Congregational Wholeness*, by Dan R. Dick (Discipleship Resources, 2007). These assessments shall be returned to the District Superintendents and Council on Congregational Development, for analysis and development of resources to assist in revitalizing congregations.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the assessment is not yet on line. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused you. We have finally found a way around the problems and have been assured that the online version of the assessment (complete with follow-up resources) will be available **no later than January 1**. This means that the December 15 completion date that we set for ourselves will not be able to be met by all of us.

Even though the online version is not yet available, you can still take the assessment by purchasing the book, *Vital Signs* by Dan Dick, which includes the assessment tool and how to score it. When the assessment is available on line we would like you to enter your information there, so we can also get a conference “snapshot.” At the site, you will be able to explore further resources tailored to your results.

If you have already taken the assessment by using the book, we would like to hear from you. What did you learn? What steps, if any, are you taking? What kind of conversations has it “sparked” among your leaders? Knowing your results and ways you are moving forward will also help the Committee on Church Revitalization and Council on Congregational Development shape the new direction of our work.

So let's be in conversation with each other as we work through this delay.

Grace and Peace,

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On behalf of the Council on Congregational Development

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