Conference Vitality Day – In year two of our Conference contract with the Center for Progressive Renewal we will provide another Vitality Day. This event will meet the perceived need of impressing upon the congregations of our Conference the importance of focusing upon congregational vitality. We feel there is a need to define congregational vitality for our churches and also to encourage them to strive for this attribute. This event will also meet the perceived need to provide competent and relevant training in the best practices of congregational life toward achieving congregational vitality.

Conference-Wide Coaching for Church Renewal - This program emphasis will meet the perceived need of spreading out training in the best practices of congregational renewal as far and wide in our conference as we are able to. We feel that this coaching will make relevant and practical advice, information and encouragement readily available to each congregation within our conference.

Our Conference Vitality Coach is Sara Wilcox who is the Director of New Church Initiatives with the Center for Progressive Renewal. She is also the co-pastor of Land of the Sky UCC in Asheville, NC. Sara will host more webinars on the following topics beginning again this fall. Change and Transformation, Marketing/Evangelism, Building Websites and using Social Media, Conflict and Congregational Health, Prophetic Ministry as Outreach, Hospitality and Authentic Community.

Communities of Practice - Several Clergy from across the Conference have already been sponsored to take the Peer to Peer Clergy training. Our specific goal would be for this pool of trained Clergy to each begin a Cluster group within their Associations and then, in turn, begin to train others in order to facilitate the beginning of yet more Peer to Peer Clergy Cluster groups. Trained Clergy will call together several Cluster groups in the coming year and then begin to recruit and train other Cluster facilitators

CLERGY CERTIFICATION IN CHURCH RENEWAL AND NEW CHURCH PLANTING – The certification process through CPR has two tracks, one for church renewal and one for starting new churches. Church Vitality sees the need for both areas within our conference. As such the certification process can be done in one or both areas. Three Clergy are currently involved in the renewal certificate program and one clergyperson is receiving training in Church planting. We will hope to recruit others to complete such training in the coming year.

NEW BEGINNINGS CONSULTATION – Is a consultation process to assist congregations who have experienced decline in making a big decision about their future – either to renew or to become a legacy congregation. Six churches of our conference are currently involved in this process.

MissionInsite: Is a demographic service tailored to an assessment of the religious climate in a given community and how to best reach out to residents in the community surrounding a local church. Beginning this year our conference will be a member of MissionInsite giving access to every congregation of the Conference to this service.

NCLI 2016 – The National Church Leaders Institute sponsored by the Center for Progressive Renewal is a gathering focused upon current news about church trends. Eight conference members attended this event last year. This year we hope to send at least nine members to this event.