

Beginning Anew

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

Pastors and Congregational Leaders Are you ready to learn from this covid-tide and move from pandemic to post-pandemic times into the next season of your congregation's ministry? *Beginning Anew* provides a process to intentionally listen, reflect, learn, and discern the next steps into God's preferred future.

Congregation Council:

- Make a commitment to participate in *Beginning Anew* (recommended 6-8 meetings).
- Decide what group of people will be the Team to engage in this process.
- Pray regularly for the process and the leaders participating in the process.
- Explore ways to share learnings from this process with the congregation.

The Process:

- Start each session with a devotion based on Isaiah 43 (see devotional guide below)
- Read and discuss the book *We Shall Be Changed. Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church*, edited by Mark D. W. Edington. You are encouraged to use the discussion questions provided. This book will be provided to you as a gift from the E-Connect Transformational Ministry process.
- Discuss reflection, learning, action questions after reading the book *We Shall Be Changed*.
- Participate in opportunities to attend a cohort gathering and/or educational seminars.

Beginning Anew has been developed by the E-Connect (Ecumenical Connect) Steering Team, An Ecumenical Ministry in Indiana and Kentucky including:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, Presbytery of Wabash Valley, Presbytery of Transylvania, Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Whitewater Valley Presbytery
The Episcopal Church
Diocese of Kentucky, Diocese of Lexington, Diocese of Northern Indiana
The United Church of Christ
Indiana-Kentucky Conference
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NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

Congregations will explore new questions and deepen spirituality as part of a way forward.

Reflection/Learning/Action

- What have you continued to do during the pandemic that needs to remain, be changed, or modified post-pandemic?
- What have you done new during the pandemic that needs to be continued, changed, or modified post-pandemic?
- What have you let go of/stopped during the pandemic that does or does not need to be resumed?
- What have you learned about your congregation during the pandemic?
- What experiments do you want to try post-pandemic? What is your next small step?

Your next step to engage in *Beginning Anew*

Contact Carol Webb at:
e-connect@iksynod.org

You will receive the *Beginning Anew* Outline, the Bible Study on Isaiah 43 and a free book (*We Shall Be Changed*) for each team member.