

IGNITE Accountability Presentation
840th Stated Meeting of Presbytery
May 15, 2018

Dear Presbytery -

Ignite has been meeting for a while now. It has been an exhilarating, overwhelming, inspiring, set of months as we have begun the work of getting clarity about Ignite's task and its role in the life of the Presbytery. We've spent time creating a sense of community, trust and shared vision with one another and learned of the individual and particular gifts each member of Ignite brings to this work. We set ourselves a steady, faithful, intentional pace. Rest assured we've been moving - meeting two times a month for many months in a row - there's just a lot to do as you can imagine!

As we prepare to launch the process for putting the Ignite funds to work for 2018, we come to you with what we hope you will receive as our holding faith with the Presbytery's trust in us. We want to offer these guidelines as to how we travel the path ahead together. There's no need to engrave them any place yet, all of this is too new and we have much to learn. But for the remainder of 2018 and 2019, we'd ask Presbytery to embrace this as the way we understand the relationship between Ignite and the Presbytery. After that, we'll come back to Presbytery with any changes we feel are necessary in order to reflect what we've learned and so that we may continue to be faithful to the Spirit of Balcony II and best promote missional ministry among our NCP congregations.

As the Presbytery lives into Balcony II, we are reminded that this document was never intended to be a fully realized road map for the future structure, staffing, and mission of the Presbytery. It is not intended to be inerrant nor intractable. Living into the Spirit of Balcony II, while also living the realities of a dynamic change process, ongoing relationships, and evolving staff all while developing patterns of accountability is challenging. But we move forward in a spirit of hope for the potential that lies within all this current uncertainty. What will God do with each of us, within and through our congregations, and the partnerships they will form?

Ignite is deeply committed to embodying that spirit of hope and serving as a catalyst for missional ministry in the Presbytery. We are humbled by the task set before us and the trust placed in us by the Presbytery. We seek to be transparent, responsive, creative, and relational.

As a committee of the Presbytery, Ignite pledges accountability to the Presbytery in the following ways:

- Terms of service that offer the checks and balances of continuity and turnover. We have organized ourselves into two classes of six with two

year terms. With the expectation that no one may serve more than two terms without rotating off Ignite for a term.

- Transparency through regular communication and access to Ignite. We have set up an email address and a portal/page on the Presbytery website which will give ready access to applications, curated resources for missional ministry, and written record of all parameters regarding Ignite grants. We welcome overtures from congregations who seek us out with questions, visions, and struggles. We pledge to make ourselves available as we are able in support of the congregations and their leaders in the Presbytery.

Our plan is to be companions with the congregations of the Presbytery as they increasingly live into a missional identity. We will do this in as many ways as we can imagine and manage. Some things we are considering are:

- offering workshops to build capacities, deepen relationships, and increase our Presbytery's understanding of what it means to be missional
- providing "coaches" uniquely suited for the partnerships which receive Ignite funding and the project those partners feel called to pursue
- assigning liaisons from among Ignite's members to NCP congregations
- facilitating ways for congregations to mentor one another

- Through Balcony II the Presbytery entrusts Ignite to allocate the Presbytery's funds for developing missional identity and ministries in and through its congregations. Ignite seeks to honor that trust by keeping Presbytery apprised of its discernment with regard to the most effective and faithful ways to put those financial resources to use in the service of Christ and those he asks his followers to love. Through the Presbytery's usual patterns of fiscal reporting, Ignite's spending and financial commitments will be readily available to the Presbytery. Quarterly, an update on how Ignite Funds are being utilized will be made available to the Presbytery.

For this first year (2018), Ignite has purposefully offered the broadest of invitations for grant applicants. Our intent is to create a space wide open to the movement of God's Spirit within our NCP congregations and their communities. With the sense of "dreaming big" and "no vision too bold", we hope to unleash energy, hope and possibility. We also wanted to learn from this open application process. Thinking of it as "research and development". We will learn from the applications we receive and those we do not.

We have thoughtfully determined through prayer and conversation, that we want for this year to listen well to the energy of our churches rather than guide them with limitations and specific requirements for their grant applications.

As it hears from congregations seeking Ignite funds, Ignite will:

- diligently and prayerfully discern how to put the funds entrusted to us into the hands and ministries of NCP churches. We are considering the fruitfulness of multi-year grants, of loans, and matching grants. We are learning from other groups within the larger Church and elsewhere about best practices for transformational funding. We are allowing ourselves the time to wait on the Spirit, to not yet know all the specifics, and to be unrestricted enough to move where and when the Spirit leads New Castle Presbytery's churches in mission and ministry.

- report directly to Presbytery the disposition of smaller grants (\$20,000 and less)

- require grant recipients receiving more than \$20,000 to present their vision to the Presbytery at a Presbytery meeting prior to receiving funding and Ignite would present its rationale for supporting this request. Presbytery would then be invited to join those congregations in partnership by affirming the "Yes" they've heard from Ignite with the enthusiastic "Yes" of the Presbytery.

- create the expectation that grant recipients will be accountable to the Presbytery through Ignite, submitting regular updates on their work through quarterly reports, including financial data.

So, we hope you, the Presbytery, will receive this with the spirit in which it has been created and offered, a spirit of hope, of trust, of passionate commitment to being the Church carrying out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in the world.

Grace and Peace to you all,

Ignite