

The Unglued Church Project - Overview

Why the Unglued Church Project?

Many churches would like to leave behind anxious conversations that always seem to be centered on the same struggles playing in a seemingly endless loop - not enough money, not enough members, too big of a building, too small of a mission vision.

The Unglued Church Project is for congregations who are done with the "way we've always done it" mentality, but not quite certain what needs to change or how to make change happen. If you are ready to make decisions for the future based upon faith, not fear, fueled by the promise that God is doing a new thing in our midst-- the Unglued Church Project will be a good fit for your congregation.

In most cases congregations (pastors and elders alike) respond to church questions and needs with time proven "technical" responses that may not be effective in your current situation. Adaptive change is a way of examining your current situation from new perspectives that encourages fresh thinking and discovery of fresh options that might not otherwise have been considered

All of our churches, large and small, face adaptive challenges - problems that cannot be solved by our current know-how, or a new program, or a new curriculum, or any of our standard operating procedures. These are deep challenges that require experiments, discoveries, and imaginative thinking to help us discern God's desired future for our congregations.

What is the Unglued Church Project?

The Unglued Church Project is a 12-month process that focuses on adaptive change in a particular congregation. The Unglued Church Project utilizes a layered approach of advising and teamwork to assess financial, community and spiritual strengths/weaknesses to help inform decisions about future direction for the congregation.

1. Who are we as a congregation?
2. Who is our neighbor?
3. Why do we exist and what is our focus?
4. How are we called to follow Jesus?
5. Are we the ones God is calling to go and serve in our particular context?
6. How to share the discernment journey with the larger congregation?

The Unglued Church Project will run its first 12-month cycle with a cohort of **8 churches** paired with **8 adaptive change advisers** who will work closely with the Unglued Church consultants through all phases of the program.

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A Church team (minimum of 3 persons), comprised of the pastor and at least two more congregation members (one of which needs to be currently serving on Council/Session), will be paired with an adaptive change adviser, a pastor or ruling elder who is receiving training in adaptive change leadership.

Rev. Susan Rothenberg and Rev. Sarah Robbins are consultants for the project who will assist the organizational work, attend each church team meeting (virtually or in-person, depending upon the location of the church), and work with the Adaptive Change Advisers on a monthly basis.

In addition to regular small group work, there are a few **required** large group gatherings in which all participating churches, advisers and Unglued consultants shall attend. Large group event locations are still TBD – most likely in central-ish locations within the presbytery.

Kickoff/Orientation Gathering	May 18, 2019	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Mid-Cycle Gathering	November 2, 2019	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Final Gathering	TBD	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Eligibility Requirements:

- Any church in New Castle Presbytery may apply to be part of this program.
- If the number of interested churches exceeds the number of available spots in the first cohort cycle, the Ignite Team (in consultation with COMC) will make the final selections.
- Participating churches agree to complete all program activities and cooperate with consultants and adaptive change advisers over the 12-month cycle.
- Participating churches are also expected to contribute **\$250.00** as an incentive to fully commit to the program, as well as offset administrative expenses for the program.
- Participating churches must have email and internet access.

Interested?

If your church is interested in participating in the Unglued Project, please contact **Hilary Livingston** at heliving@gmail.com.

You may also contact any member of the Ignite Team to learn more about this project.
