

**The Acts 16:5 Initiative
Covenant Agreement**

Covenant Responsibilities of Pastor and Session:

1. Our Pastor and Session commit to lead transformation in dependence on the Holy Spirit. The Session seeks to be "permission-giving" and open to new ideas and directions while sustaining its overall responsibility to watch over the life of the congregation.
2. Change and momentum take time. A two-year basic commitment allows us enough time to just begin the process of seeking our transformational future.
3. Our congregation will have a Congregational Acts 16:5 Leadership Team - our Pastor and about four to six imaginative others. While reporting to the Session and perhaps also connected by a participating elder or two, the Team's role is to brainstorm future options and steps in light of ideas from the Acts 16:5 Initiative. Many congregations used to have (and some still do) "long range planning committees" that worked on distant plans. The Acts 16:5 Leadership Team is different in that it works with the Pastor, the Session, and other leaders to identify and implement transformational steps as rapidly and thoroughly as people and resources permit.
4. Our Pastor will be in an Acts 16:5 covenant group with three to four other pastors for the purpose of mutual encouragement and especially to help one another think more imaginatively about their ministries and next steps.

Covenant Responsibilities of Presbytery through the Acts 16:5 Coordinating Team:

1. Provide for the scheduling of Training Events.
2. Provide, through the General Presbyter, for the support and resourcing of the Pastors' Covenant Groups
3. Provide for scholarship aid for those congregations who apply as outlined below:

Church Budget	Cost to Church	Cost to Presbytery
Under \$50,000	\$25/month (\$600/two years)	\$1800
\$50,001-100,000	\$50/month (\$1200/two years)	\$1200
\$100,001-300,000	\$75/month (\$1800/two years)	\$600
\$300,001 and up	\$100/month (\$2400/two years)	--

Covenant Responsibilities of the Coach and Vital Churches:

1. Delivery of the one and two-day seminars/gatherings every six months.
2. Materials for the pastor/point person and team of two to six from every congregation to include Manual 2 and a variety of handouts. Books and PowerPoint slides will also be provided to every pastor/point person.
3. The monthly email letter "Initiative" that reinforces various Acts 16:5 Initiative concepts.
4. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations for all of the modules.
5. Unlimited email interaction between the pastors and congregational leadership teams and presbytery leadership with Vital Church Institute coaches.

6. Access to a new Acts 16:5 website that is to come online late in the fall of 2006 with a variety of downloads and resources for those engaged in the Acts 16:5 Initiative.
7. Counsel and encouragement from a Vital Churches Institute coach to the coaches of the pastor clusters.
8. Counsel and encouragement from a Vital Churches Institute coach to the presbytery staff and leadership in developing the Acts 16:5 Initiative in their presbytery and in ways to apply the Acts 16:5 Initiative concepts to the presbytery itself as well as within its congregations.

We, the Session and Pastor of _____
(name/address of congregation), covenant with the Muskingum Valley Presbytery and Vital Churches Institute to participate in the Acts 16:5 Initiative, committing to the covenant responsibilities as outlined above.

Pastor's Signature

Clerk of Session's Signature

Yes/No—requesting scholarship support
If yes, please attach budget

Acts 16:5 Initiative Coordinating Team
on behalf of Muskingum Valley Presbytery