

PEVA Congregational Vitality Ministry

25 April 2023 PEVA Meeting, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

Notes taken from “Flip Chart” created by PEVA Congregational Vitality Team facilitators, Rev. Chris Carrasco and Joel Phillips, at 22- member breakout discussion topic of **“What Is Your Biggest Obstacle to Vitality?”**

1. Communications:
 - i. By Staff
 - ii. Use of technology
 - iii. Comment was made that the church expects you to come to it – church does not reach out to the community it serves.
2. Resistance to change (fear of change) (letting go of past):
 - i. Aging,
 - ii. Lack of motivation by church members to lead.
3. Sustainable membership
 - i. Relevant
 - ii. Meet people where they are
 - iii. Prayer group – Zoom “use” tripled participation at one church
4. Pandemic
 - i. Lack of “active” attendance. Attendance “once per month” or “3 times per year” is not “active.”
 - ii. One older member commented “after the pandemic, going back to church in person made all the difference.
5. Lack of CE, Biblical Education
 - i. Work with short online video lessons to teach Bible Studies to children
 - ii. CE has “gone out the window”
 - iii. Work with children and youth already at the church premises for other programs such as preschool, Scouts
6. Partner with other churches
7. PEVA Congregational Vitality Ministry has funds for programs and personnel to work at individual churches on church vitality topics. (Statement by Vitality Team)
8. Trauma of loneliness among church members needs to be addressed.

This discussion breakout session lasted one hour.