

Arkansas Conference Trajectory

Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.



Purpose of the Center for Vitality:

The Center for Vitality provides resources for pastors, laity, and congregations to experience spiritual revival and become vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

Primary Focus for the Center for Vitality:

The Center for Vitality will lead in addressing Next Steps 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Bishop's Mission Plan. The Center collaborates on all other Next Steps to resource the creation of vital congregations.

Resourcing Vital Congregations

- Partnered in creation of Resources for 2016 "Getting Serious About Spiritual Revival"
- Designed the process for ¶213 Crossroads Conversations
- Providing Online Toolboxes and MissionInsite Demographics
- Recruited and trained the Crisis Care Team
- Creating a Vital Congregations Initiative

Equipping Leaders

- Organized and hosted 2016 Grow By One Summit
- Led 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation
- Sponsoring Coach Approach Training & Coaching Network
- Continued partnerships with United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas for developing leaders through the COR Leadership Institute, Preaching Festival, FUSION, & other formative events

Discipling Communities of Practice

- Coordinate Perkins Preaching Excellence Cohorts
- Supported Clergywomen's Leadership Initiative
- Initiating future REVgroups for clergy communities of practice
- Unleashing Lay Leadership

Supporting Supervised Ministry

- Redesigned Circuit Elder Function and Training
- Hosted Pastors in Transition
- Assists with Orientation for Ministry (BOM Partnership)
- Provided Residency In Ministry (RIM) Process (BOM Partnership)

Rev. Dede Roberts
Center Director

Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford
Center Assistant Director



DISCOVER MORE RESOURCES AT:
vitality.arumc.org

Building a Bridge Event

Look Like your Neighborhood
& Grow By One



Kay Kotan's

Steps to a Successful Bridge Event

1. Create a prayer team to pray for the event, the people who will attend, and the community.
2. Based on who your community is, begin to plan an event that will meet a need or be an enjoyable activity for your niche demographic. Think quality over quantity.
3. Create a multi-faceted communication and marketing plan based on the niche demographic.
4. Put together a hospitality team for the sole purpose of being the first impression for attendees helping them to feel comfortable and begin conversations and relationship building.
5. Recruit the necessary people to "work" the event making sure they understand the purpose of the event.
6. Create a means to collect names of the attendees (i.e. drawing).
7. Recruit and equip a team to follow-up with attendees. Order postcards. Create the follow-up process and helpful scripts.
8. Plan a hand-off event (next small step in deepening relationships—not worship).
9. Plan a sermon series following the event that is seeker friendly for those who might show up.
10. Prayer team prays the space prior to the event kick-off.
11. Conduct the event with excellence and radical hospitality.
12. Prayer team is praying for the attendees, community and the event during the event.
13. Follow-up team goes into action 24-48 hours after event.
14. Follow-up team continues follow-up for 3-6 months depending on the follow-up process and input from the attendee.

Bridge Events are usually held outside of the church building and preferably off church grounds for the sole purpose of building relationships with the un-churched/de-churched in your mission field.

Bridge Events are a "P-Free Zone"

No preaching

No prayers

No pocketbooks

No pressure

- Kids Back to School
- Carnival/festival
- Magician, juggler or clown
- Comedian
- Concert in the park
- Living nativity
- Egg hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- Dinner theater
- Dance (father/daughter, mother/son, square dance, Valentine's dance, grandparents, etc.)
- Parents night out
- Movie night
- Fourth of July party &/or fireworks
- Free swim night at the local pool
- Free sports camp
- Mother's Day or Father's Day banquet or event
- Neighborhood block party
- Free skate night (roller or ice)
- Car or motorcycle show
- Family safety event (finger printing, fire safety, bike safety, etc.)
- Tailgate party (before or after any kind of game)
- Race or marathon (walking, running, biking)
- Bike rodeo
- Veteran's Celebration/Recognition
- Event to recognize and celebrate community servants (i.e. teachers, principals, city council, mayor, police, fire, etc.)
- Golf tournament (or basketball, baseball, soccer)
- New Year's Eve party

**Bridge
Event
Ideas**

**What are some possible Bridge Events
that would be effective for your mission field?**

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