

Vitality Strategist

Job Description

Are you passionate about the mission of the United Methodist Church and believe we have a huge opportunity to increase our relevance and make real our love of God and neighbor?

Do you have experience starting or growing ministry and/or in supporting others to successfully start or grow ministry?

Are you a self-starting team player with excellent interpersonal and communication skills?

We are hiring three Vitality Strategists to serve as the primary point of contact team supporting congregational leadership and development. Together they seek to:

- Support churches in meeting the goal of vitality (deepening discipleship, seeing all the people, living and loving like Jesus and multiplying impact under the guidance of the Holy Spirit);
- Participate in discernment of congregational and community needs as aligned through Missional Action Planning (MAP).
- Develop vital leaders and congregations through assessments and connecting leaders and congregations to conference resourcing (e.g., Center for Vital Leadership, Connect Leadership Summit, Training Tuesdays, vitality pathways, etc.)

They do this through

- Visiting local churches (worship and programs)
- Providing initial vitality assessments/consultations
- Attending – and facilitating as needed – quarterly hub meetings and identify/procure needed resources
- Providing programmatic support for District and Conference
- Meet monthly with other Vitality Strategists and Missional Superintendents to share, strategize and coordinate

Each has a specialty area in one or more of the following:

- IDEA/Beloved Community
- New & Renewed Faith Expressions (New Church Start and Church Development)
- Young People
- Wellness & Missions
- Advocacy & Action
- Rural Ministry
- Suburban Ministry
- Urban Ministry
- Small church ministry

- Racial/ethnic church ministry

Vitality Strategists will serve congregations and collaborative hubs alongside conference superintendents. They serve as the primary point of contact to help actualize missional action planning.

They work with assigned conference superintendent(s), connecting church leaders and collaborative hub leadership to:

- Support vitality, common and emerging needs through a centralized pool of resources (tools, pathways, academies, etc.) and resourcers (facilitation, consultation, coaching, property redevelopment, along with other needed experts and partners).
- Inform opportunities throughout the year for leaders to gather for worship, fellowship and training through serving on the design team.
- Work alongside a ministry resourcing team.

Vitality Strategists could be lay or clergy and are compensated, but they are not supervisors, nor do they serve on the Appointive Cabinet.

Education (What is the minimum level of formal education required?):

- Bachelor's degree required
- Master's in a relevant area preferred

Other Specialized Training

- Certification and/or relevant experience in one or more specialty area is preferred.

Experience (What kind and how much previous experience are needed?) 3-4 years

- Facilitating collaboration of diverse groups of leaders toward a common goal
- Assessment that yields next steps which include what is needed. Listening deeply to team input to support discernment of gifts, goals, strategies and needs.
- Working within the United Methodist connection
- Fruitfulness in growing and/or starting rural, suburban and/or urban ministry

Requirements

- Passionate follower of Jesus
- Adaptive leader who embodies thriving spirituality, cultural humility, non-anxious presence with proven experience in leading change.
- Technical: Zoom and Microsoft office/Google Suites proficiency.
- Excellent communication skills—verbal and written.
- Capacity to journey alongside congregational leaders across a region (including weekends).

Learning Period (How long would it take a new employee to learn the job?)

- 2-3 years