

Why are we participating?

We believe deeply in our call to make disciples for Jesus Christ by discovering God, loving others, and serving the world.

VCI will offer the time with God, insights, and skill to help us grow more effective, vibrant and vital.

We are going to be the best church we can be, for the mission of Jesus Christ.

Come grow with us.

*He put a new song in my mouth,
A song of praise for our God.
Many people will learn of this and be
amazed; they will trust the lord.
Psalm 40-3*



Discovering God
Loving Others
Serving the World



351 Butterfield Street
Fremont, MI 49412
231/924-0030
umcfremont@att.net
Fremont-umc.org

Questions about VCI?

Pastor Marty	231/215-3596
Karen Barnes	231/924-4594
Roger Bradshaw	231/924-6874
Ron Gibson	231/924-0126



A process of renewal for growing vital and
fruitful congregations in the Michigan Area of
The United Methodist Church

The VCI Process

Phase I: Shared Learning Experience

The church establishes a team that includes the pastor and 2-5 laity, that meets with teams from other nearby churches. The Larger Church Path is 9 Saturday learning sessions. This experience will help your team learn key concepts and best practices-tapping into the discoveries of other effective churches and church leaders– and then apply them in their own lives in order to develop as church leaders. As a result the church will develop a cadre of leaders to help it more effectively carry out its mission and become more fruitful.

All sessions are 5 hours long with each session consisting of teaching, spiritual reflection, interaction with the ideas and concepts and group sharing.

Phase II: Consultation Preparation and Event

Phase II is 4 to 6 months process culminating in the Consultation Event . Prior to the Consultation Event a team of trained pastors and lay persons receive documents about the congregation. During the event, the team determines strengths, growth areas, and strategic recommendations, called prescriptions, for the church to pursue in order to move to even greater effectiveness. The church will receive 5 prescriptions in each area.

During the 4 to 6 month preparation and consultation event process, the pastor will be part of a peer

A major focus of the shared Learning Experience for participants is personal growth.

Participants read a book each month pertaining to each session’s topic. Those on the church team meet at least once between each session to debrief the session, discuss the readings and see how each person is doing applying the concepts.

Once Phase I is completed, the VCI facilitator, staff, coach, and District Superintendent will discern who will be invited to be a part of Phase II.

Fremont United Methodist Church has completed Phase I. We are now in Phase II.

mentoring group with other participating pastors. The church and its leaders complete pre-consultation reports, documents, a worship and provide video’s of its worship experiences. **The Consultation Event is what actually begins momentum for healthy change in the congregation.**

In the 4 to 6 weeks after the Consultation Event the pastor and congregation will decide during 2 or 3 town hall meetings whether to accept or reject the consultation report, including its prescriptions. This decision is finalized in a called church conference.

Phase III: Implementation of Prescriptions

Each congregation voting ‘yes’ to the consultation report and its prescriptions will be assigned a coach to help with implementing the prescriptions.

What is the VCI Team doing?

Over the next few months the VCI Team will be working on a self-study of Fremont UMC. Here is a timeline of what we are doing.

September	Pastor Marty enrolls in mentor group
October	Church-wide study Sermon Series
November	Readiness 360 On-Line Survey (the whole church is invited to participate in the survey)
December	Pray for the consultation and the congregations readiness for God’s future. Celebrate the Advent Season
February	Consultation Weekend February 28-March 2
March	Begin Town Hall meetings (a chance for everyone to discuss the consultation and the prescriptions.
April	Church Conference to vote on the consultation report, including its prescriptions Date/Time to be announced

You may ask the church office for a copy of a complete timeline of what the VCI team is doing, when they are doing it, and who from the team is leading it.