

Annual Meeting TPIRC Report 2024

Submitted by: Rev. Melody L. Seaton, Project Director

(Due to space limitations, the report attachments are not included and some reformatting has been done)

“The Thriving in Ministry grant was created to support pastors, so they can become better leaders in their congregations. If pastors are better leaders, this will equip their congregations to spread the gospel.”-*Chris Cobles, Vice President for Religion Lilly Endowment*

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**Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations (TPIRC)**  
Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ

**Pillars of TPIRC**

Leadership – Collegiality – Spirituality – Congeniality

**Components**

One on One Coaching once a month

Clergy Communities of Practice (CCOP) Group Meetings with other pastors once a month

Cohort Meetings (Combined gatherings with pastors and lay team) 2-3 times a year

Annual Education Summit

**Membership Report:**

30 churches involved in TPIRC

17 coaches (Only 8 are active)

8 CCOP Facilitators. (Only 2 are active)

**Team Meetings:**

1/8, 1/23, 2/6, 2/23, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/3, 6/5, 7/1, 7/8, 7/26, 8/22, 8/29, 9/9

**Meetings with TPRIC Education Summit Presenters:**

1/23, 1/30 (Visit to Federated Church of Sycamore), 2/21, 2/26, 3/7, 3/11, 3/15, 3/16, 3/20, 3/22, 4/4

**Cohort Meetings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meetings: 2/17

Attendance: 22 pastors and lay team members

Presenter: Keith Clark-Hoyos, Owner, Consultant, Coach for the Church Training Center

Provides accounting for the IL Conference

Presentation: “Budgets That Inspire Giving”

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meetings: 5/18

Attendance: 28 (13 Pastors, 13 Lay People & 2 TPRIC Coach)

Presenters: Rev. Susan Cartmell and Rev. Peggy O’Connor

Authors of “The Perpetual Pivot: Ministry in the Pandemic and Beyond”

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meetings: TPRIC Education Summit 9/13 & 9/14

Education Summit:

This year’s TPIRC Education Summit took place on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> with lodging at Country Inn and Suites in Sycamore, IL followed dinner and fellowship at Faranda’s in Dekalb, IL.

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The title: “Working Together with God” with focus scripture from Romans 8:28: “We know all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose!”

We had a total of 59 participants. Our keynote address was given by Dr. Barbara Trautlein author of “Change Intelligence” and the closing sermon by our Acting Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff.

### **Lilly Endowment:**

#### Thriving in Ministry Peer Learning Gathering

I attended this gathering 8/12-8/14 held at Duke University in Durham. It was an intensive retreat with others around the country with Thriving in Ministry grants. The topic was on the importance of rest and looking at scripture differently as it pertains to the need. We also learned from each other in small groups best practices for running our programs. Had amazing worship each day and got to network with people around the country.

#### Sustainability Grant

We took advantage of the opportunity to apply for the sustainability grant. It was submitted 3/1/24 was awarded with a grant period of June 1, 2024 – December 31, 2029. This overlaps with the current grant that should’ve ended December 31, 2023. However, because of the extension of the current grant, it will not be possible to begin this grant until the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of next year. We need to bring closure to the current grant. Also, Marz Rivera will not journey with us in the new grant, so his position will need to be filled. A new position was to be created to raise the matching funds needed. This person’s job description needs to be developed, and they will report directly to the CM. Also, the ACM’s have a more developed role in this new grant of facilitating Affinity CCOP’s. Since Rev. Murff is Acting Conference Minister that wouldn’t be a fair use of his time. In addition to a new position, ACM’s facilitating monthly CCOP groups, churches will have more choice in how they are served. They will be able to apply for micro-grants that can be used for coaching or other opportunities best suited for their congregations. Cohort meetings and the Summit will remain. The latter will be open to the entire Conference for a nominal fee.