

Barnabas Initiatives: Mission and Model

Mission

Our mission is to work with churches, especially in times of stress, to encourage and equip for revitalized life and witness.

Convictions

Our board and staff affirm the theology, values, and practice of the Brethren in Christ Church, U.S. and work with similarly-minded communities of faith.

Aim

Our aim is to discern and articulate achievable and sustainable action steps to move a church through a time of stress to healthy life and mission.

Approach

We listen to (1) people in the local church, (2) the wider church, and (3) the Holy Spirit. We endeavor to use the insights and skills of people in the church (or nearby churches) as the primary building blocks for revitalization.

Understandings

Consultations begin with a memo of understanding and culminate with a one-page "case study" that is posted (with permission) on the BI website.

Deliverables

We provide in clear and concise documents: (1) recommended action steps and (2) tools such as prayers, assessment, church culture, a letter to pastor.

Check-back

After twelve months, BI checks back with churches served for a qualitative assessment of the impact of BI recommendations action steps and tools.

Financial Model

BI ministry asks churches served to reimburse expenses, but does not assess fees for services. Individuals and churches are invited to contribute.

Compensation

Essential services are compensated. Staff serve on a volunteer basis with expenses reimbursed. As funds allow, staff may receive compensation.

Outcome

We believe that proactive steps to encourage and assist churches in times of stress strengthen the life and mission of the *whole* Church (1 Cor.12:26).