

Administrative Commission for Transformation (ACT) 2010 Highlights

The Administrative Commission for Transformation (ACT) was elected by Pittsburgh Presbytery in 2000 to promote congregational transformation among the churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery. Pittsburgh Presbytery set aside \$1,000,000 for ACT to use in this endeavor. Here are the highlights of the way the money was used.

The mission of ACT is to help churches in the Pittsburgh Presbytery seeking transformation by providing consultation, training, and financial resources to create healthy, vital churches and bring people to Jesus Christ.

Allocation of Funds: TOTAL \$1,000,000

Transformation Grants – \$636,000

14 congregations were granted up to \$60,000 over a 3-5 year period in order to further the transformational ministry they were doing. This enabled the congregations to do more, in a shorter period of time, than they could have done on their own. In an effort to reach out to their community, some churches started contemporary worship services, others explored new outreach missions. The bottom line for grant funding was the question: “How will this money help this church reach more people for Christ.”

Training and Leadership Development - \$364,000

- Church leaders were sent to various transformation conferences – open invitations were made throughout the years for churches to send teams of leaders to five different national transformation conferences
- There were four Alban Institute seminars held in Pittsburgh
- One day seminars were held in Pittsburgh by national speakers such as Kennon Callahan, Michael Slaughter, and Jin Kim
- ACT subsidized three church transformation processes led by national church consultants; Project 6:15, Surfing the Edge, and Acts Initiative (approximately 70 churches participated in at least one of these)
- Demographic and Congregational surveys have been provided to churches for their transformational ministry assessments

At the December 2005 Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting a DVD entitled “*Seeds of Tomorrow*” was presented highlighting some of the transformational ministries happening in churches throughout our presbytery that were made possible through the support of ACT. (*The results of the support of the New Church Development Commission and the African American Administrative Commission were also included on this DVD. Copies are still available at the Presbytery Center.*)

THE ONGOING WORK OF ACT

In order for ACT to continue to support churches in their transformational ministry efforts, money was included as a line item in the annual presbytery budget. Out of the yearly line item the following have been funded:

- **Enhancement Grants** – grants up to \$5,000 have been awarded to churches seeking to try a new outreach or enhance existing outreach efforts. Since 2001, more than 200 grants have been awarded to churches that satisfied the main criterion of “how will this money help this church reach more people for Christ?” Enhancement Grants have proven particularly helpful in smaller congregations that generally have a very limited budget and could not do these additional outreach efforts on their own. **Applications for and information about Enhancement Grants is available on the presbytery website at http://www.pghpresbytery.org/forms/form_files/act.htm**
- **Daycamps** – ACT has provided the seed money for Crestfield Camp and Conference Center to test a ministry of taking camp to the churches and reaching children in the local community with a week-long program. This is designed for churches who do not have a VBS but would like to begin reaching more children in their communities. Over the last two summers, more than 500 children in the Pittsburgh regional were reached through these Daycamps. **Application process and deadlines are usually communicated to churches in late winter.**
- **Seminary Interns** – ACT has funded more than a dozen seminary students to work with churches that have partnered in an urban/suburban partnership that have come together for the purpose of reaching an economically marginalized community for Christ. This effort is designed to provide outreach training for students while providing additional resources for churches interested in reaching their communities. **For more information, contact Cindy Miller at 412-3231400 X 321.**
- **Partnerships** – ACT has encouraged churches to consider partnerships with each other as a way of supporting the transformational ministry in our presbytery. Churches with an abundance of resources are partnering with churches in economically marginalized communities to work together in being a stronger witness and reaching more people. Sharing includes people, goods, and financial resources. Clergy groups have formed for mutual support and accountability. Congregations have partnered to share staff. Churches have reached across denomination lines for community Bible study and mission. Creative ways for churches and pastors to live the transforming gospel together are unlimited. **To view a sampler of partnerships, go to http://www.pghpresbytery.org/committees_commissions/comm_files/act.htm#ministry_partnerships**