

Transformed by the Spirit Updates October 2016

What is TbyS?

“Transformed by the Spirit” is a movement to discern and engage in the story of God’s redeeming presence for new life in the areas of personal faith, congregational mission, cross-congregational resourcing and the American Baptists’ organizational culture. Together, since Transformed by the Spirit began in 2011, we have been asking: “*What challenges are we facing, for which we do not presently have an answer, but which must be addressed if we are to live into the future God has for us?*”



News from the Journey Team

Interim General Secretary, Susan Gillies, joined the Journey Team for the first time during their October meeting. To the benefit of all, a significant portion of the meeting was spent revisiting the history, purpose, and current big picture of the Journey Team. Dr. Gillies expressed the importance of Transformed by the Spirit melding with the harmonizing role of ABCUSA. The team identified the role of Transformed by the Spirit as a catalyst for encouraging ABC entities to discern what God is doing in our world and then respond to the results of such discernment. The team spent extra time engaging one of the core practices of TbyS, namely *Dwelling in the Word*, and made plans to encourage the use of this transformative activity among other ABC entities. Other results are shown below.

Video Production Results

The first round of ministry stories involved over 41 stories (video and written) that were shared prior to and at the 2015 Mission Summit. The result was a favorable beginning to giving voice and celebration to the ministry of the local church and new ministry experiments. The Ministry Story Opportunity encouraged churches to submit their stories so that others could learn and be inspired from their experiences. The use of financial grants helped provide incentive. Six grants were given that altogether totaled \$5000. The ABCUSA website has continued to feature the videos and written stories, along with the development of a dedicated YouTube channel that still hosts the videos. The team adopted the new name of “Transformation Stories” for 2017 and will encourage the submission of stories related to the ABC Mission Table priorities as well as stories that explore the engagement of TbyS resources. Grants will once again be awarded at the 2017 Mission Summit in Portland, Oregon.

TbyS Resources in Action

Rev. Greg Mamula serves as the ABC point person for *Joining God in the Neighborhood*, the newest resource of Transformed by the Spirit. Greg introduced this material to twenty-one (21) different congregations in four (4) different regions over the summer. Funded by Transformed by the Spirit, Dr. Brad Berglund led a Taizé pilgrimage to France in June and conducted *Rhythms of the Spirit* events at Green Lake and at Washington DC this summer in conjunction with the ABC Ministers Council.