

Transformed by the Spirit Updates June 2017

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

In addition to making resources available to individuals, congregations, and national organizations, the Journey Team of TbyS continues to function as a “think tank” or resource team for OGS. The dexterity of the team has helped them to challenge old assumptions, implement adaptive change, and promote new life through accepting God’s invitation to join the Spirit at work. They take seriously the responsibility of Dwelling in the Word. In fact, the *Dwelling in the Word* experience has been a tremendous blessing not only, for the core team, but also has strongly influenced denominational life.

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 has received several new video stories of congregations at work in partnering with what God is already doing in their neighborhoods and communities.

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. Over the past several months, Greg has introduced this material to twenty-one (21) different congregations in four (4) different regions. This spring, Jeff Woods presented the resource to over 100 people at the ABC of Greater Indianapolis Annual Meeting. Funded by Transformed by the Spirit, Dr. Brad Berglund recently led a Taize pilgrimage to France and conducted *Rhythms of the Spirit* events at Green Lake and at Washington DC in conjunction with the ABC Ministers Council.