

Recently Ordained Minister to Start Presbyterian Church in Northern Kentucky

FAITH MATTERS

BY KAREN VANCE | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Boldness and humility. That's what it takes to start a church from scratch, according to the Rev. Lee F. Veazey.

He's praying that he has both as he moves to Northern Kentucky this summer to start a new church - Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church. A location - not even a county - has yet been selected. .

"It's almost like being a missionary in your own country," Veazey said.

The church will be a part of the Presbyterian Church in America. There is only one other PCA church in Northern Kentucky - Trinity Presbyterian Church of Northern Kentucky, a recent daughter church of a congregation in Cincinnati, holds services in Burlington.

The Presbyterian Church in America is one of the fastest-growing denominations in the U.S. with more than 1,450 churches and missions and more than 306,000 members. It is smaller than the more well-known Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which has about 2.4 million members.

The PCA has several churches in Greater Cincinnati, including Church of the Covenant in Wyoming, Faith Presbyterian in Mount Washington, North Cincinnati Community Church in Mason, and the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Wyoming.

Veazey, who was ordained June 9 at North Cincinnati Community Presbyterian Church, will be moving from his home near Philadelphia to Fort Mitchell in August. The church will begin organizing in the fall.

"The church's message will be the life-saving and life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ," Veazey said. "We're not interested in shuffling the flock or looking for disgruntled church members. We want to see people come to Christ and bring the unchurched to church."

Services aren't expected to begin until spring, but Veazey is excited by the interest the church's Web site and relationships it has generated.

"There is no core group of families to start from. It really is a church from the ground up," he said. "The goal is not numbers and nickels. The goal is - because the church is God's design for the extension of his kingdom - the goal is to see people come to know Christ and to deepen people's relationship with Christ."

John and Sara Davis of Hebron encouraged Veazey to look at Northern Kentucky to plant a church.

They were members of a PCA church in Alabama before moving to Northern Kentucky in 2000.

"We've dreamed about it, prayed about it and worked toward it for so many years," John Davis said. "We're excited to see it starting to come to fruition."

As the roots begin to form for this church, Veazey has found himself remembering the words of a fellow seminary student and church planter.

"And that's why church planting is wonderful - because God tosses you headlong into the deep end, where there's a very real danger of both drowning and sharks. And in the sheer terror of being in over your head, something amazing happens - we cry out to God; we call out to others. We are forced to look beyond ourselves. We are forced into relationship," his fellow church planter said.

"This task is far greater than my ability," Veazey said. "The confidence in myself has decreased, but my confidence in God has increased, and that's not a bad exchange."

For more information about the Northern Kentucky Project and Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church, visit www.graceandpeacepca.org.

To get involved in this church start-up, contact Veazey at LMVeazey@earthlink.net.