

Here's an overview of the **5 key steps in the God is Stillspeaking, Ready, Set, Grow! plan.** We encourage you to **have your team go through all of them** so that everyone is on the same page, speaking the same language, and moving toward the same goals . . . Revised 05/20/08

Vitality Steps	Benefit	What to do and where to find it on the site
<p><b>Step 1. Build your team</b></p>	<p><b>Leadership is critical.</b> Get a team that can work together. They will be the key advocates for change, keeping the church focused on its goals, implementing and tweaking tactics to accomplish common goals.</p>	<p><b>Read the Articles:</b>  <a href="#">Exploring Your Congregation's Vitality</a>                      (first five paragraphs)</p> <p>Chapter 3 <a href="#">"The Power of Invitation and Welcome"</a></p>
<p><b>Step 2. Know thyself, know thy product</b></p>	<p><b>Focus matters.</b> Jesus says, "'Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light.'" The writer of the Letter of James says, "Don't think you're going to get anything . . . adrift at sea, keeping all your options open."                      (Matthew 6:22 and James 1:8 from The Message)</p>	<p><b>Engage our common scriptures</b>  <a href="#">Stillspeaking Bible Study</a> about God's core business  <a href="#">Ready, Set, Grow! Bible Study</a></p> <p><b>Engage our common history</b>  <a href="#">UCC Firsts</a></p> <p><a href="#">Congregational Vitality: What Matters</a></p> <p><b>Engage our common UCC Brand</b>  <a href="#">Get the identity basics and order the kit here.</a></p> <p>View "Ron-in-the Box" video – Chapter X</p>

<p><b>Step 3. Know the marketplace</b></p>	<p><b>Understand what you are seeing.</b> Jesus says, "As you look around right now, wouldn't you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These . . . fields are ripe. It's harvest time!                      (John 4:35 from The Message)</p>	<p><b>Take the online course</b>  <a href="#">It's a Whole New World</a></p> <p><b>Study your target neighborhood</b>  <a href="#">Use the online demographic tool</a></p> <p>Read <a href="#">"Knowing Your Neighborhood"</a></p> <p>View the video <a href="#">"Vital Churches Know Their Community and Today's Culture"</a></p> <p><b>Interpret the data based on the "Knowing your neighborhood" exercises.</b></p>
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<p><b>Step 4. Be clear about your congregation's strengths.</b></p>	<p><b>It takes a vital village.</b> The Apostle Paul said, "You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts - limbs, organs, cells - but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12 from The Message)</p>	<p><b>Take the Vital-O-Meter test.</b>  Print out the pages, take the test manually, total the results, interpret.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Take the test</a></li> <li>• Evaluate the score</li> </ul> <p><b>View the Stillspeaking results of the national campaign to assess what's possible (PowerPoint)</b></p> <p><b>Discuss what it means to be a leadership congregation in your community (PowerPoint)</b></p> <p><b>Read the book "<a href="#">Leadership for Vital Congregations</a>" by Anthony Robinson</b></p>
<p><b>Step 5: Plan for desired and measurable outcomes</b></p>	<p><b>Get out there.</b> Jesus says, "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 from The Message)</p>	<p><b>Implement these tools to become a Welcoming Church</b></p> <p>View "Ron-in-the Box" video – Chapter 6</p> <p>Read "<a href="#">The Power of Invitation and Welcome</a>"</p> <p>Engage in the <a href="#">Ready, Set, Grow! Bible Study</a></p> <p>Read article "<a href="#">Discern your Mission</a>"</p> <p>View and discuss the "<a href="#">Foster Discipleship</a>" segment of the Ready, Set, Grow! video</p> <p>Read "<a href="#">Bridging Groups</a>" and "<a href="#">From Generation to Generation</a>"</p> <p>View other small groups and other resources (PowerPoint)</p> <p>Reach the online world <a href="http://i.ucc.org/">http://i.ucc.org/</a></p>