



2019
CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





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A WORD FROM BRIAN WEBER, EXECUTIVE MINISTER

**He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God.
Acts 16:34**

Do you remember the day that you first placed your faith in Jesus? I was a young boy at a backyard Bible club in the summertime. We slurped on drippy popsicles around a picnic table, and neighborhood teenagers shared with us the story of the cross. My heart connected with the lesson in a special way that day. Jesus died for me!

Or, perhaps you had a life-changing experience like the Apostle Paul. His story is told to us in Acts 9. He was an adult and violently opposed to the gospel. God intervened and dramatically changed his life.

If you are a believer in Jesus, there was a moment in time when you first heard the gospel from another Christian. It's everyday followers of Jesus—pastors and Christians like you—who pass along the good news to the people living in your neighborhoods and the next generation. God, in his wisdom, has entrusted the mission of Jesus into your hands.

This is a mission that we get to do together. We need more vibrant churches helping people meet, know and follow Jesus!

Converge MidAtlantic is a movement of gospel-centered churches in neighborhoods like yours. Our purpose is to encourage working together in ministry, so that we can be better, do more and go further collectively than any one of us can do on our own.

I've been a part of the Converge MidAtlantic family since my home church joined 15 years ago. I still believe in our mission today. We start new churches, strengthen one another, send global missionaries and develop the next generation of leaders.

This mission isn't possible without you and your church.

I invite you to celebrate with us as you read this Annual Impact Report. The following pages include stories and statistics of how God is working among the churches of Converge MidAtlantic. I hope it inspires all of us to become more deeply engaged in the mission of Jesus!



Sincerely in Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Brian Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Weber
Executive Minister
Converge MidAtlantic



SPIRITUALLY DEVOTED

OVER 25,000 ATTENDEES
IN 99 GOSPEL-CENTERED
CHURCHES IN NINE STATES



MISSIONALLY DRIVEN

22 NEW CHURCHES
STARTED SINCE 2010

OUR VALUES

CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC IS A MOVEMENT OF CHURCHES WORKING TO HELP PEOPLE MEET, KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS. WE DO THIS BY STARTING AND STRENGTHENING CHURCHES TOGETHER WORLDWIDE.



RELATIONALLY CONNECTED

77 PASTORS AND LEADERS
ENGAGED IN REGIONAL
LEAD TEAMS



CULTURALLY DIVERSE

38% OF CONVERGE
MIDATLANTIC CHURCHES
ARE CULTURAL OR ETHNIC

Being part of Converge is like being connected to another church family. With Converge, we get the support we need to stay in the game of ministry. It has been a safe place for us to bring our wins and our struggles of ministry. We have been loved and understood by other churches in our Converge network and by the Converge staff themselves.

*Nikki Broughton, Director of Connection
New Hope Church-Wooster, OH*

35%
OF FUNDS GO TO
CHURCH PLANTING

4
GRAND
OPENINGS
SINCE 2017

START

When you leave the house on Sunday morning, how many of your neighbors are also getting into their cars to go to church? You can see it with your own eyes. An increasing number of Americans today do not practice a personal faith in God. In response, Converge churches like yours are committed to starting new congregations so that every neighborhood can have a vibrant, gospel-centered church. Empty and decaying church buildings can be revived for new, healthy congregations. New churches often work together to start even more churches to see lives changed with Christ's love.



Calvary Lewistown First Gathering on December 23, 2018

\$2,500

AVERAGE COST TO SEND
CANDIDATES TO THE
ASSESSMENT CENTER

18

CHURCH
PLANTERS IN THE
PIPELINE FOR
2019

12

MINISTRY COUPLES
ATTENDED THE
CHURCH PLANTING
ASSESSMENT
CENTER IN 2019

START. The verb means *to begin* or *to ignite*. I love that definition, especially when we are talking about the church and the importance of spreading the gospel message. We are excited to be part of God's work, and we will continue to lean into God as we develop relationships with people and let them know of the hope they can find in Christ.

Sean Moon,
Gathering Pastor
Calvary Lewistown

Stories of Impact



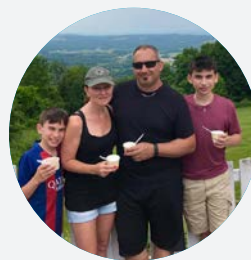
Brian Thompson,
Church Planter
D.C. Area

Converge has impacted my wife and I to the core of our lives. Going to the Converge Church Planting Assessment Center gave us a real analysis of who we truly are in the sight of God and who he created us to be. There have been many years of people, organizations and churches who have verbally defined us as either failures or not good enough. Converge has nurtured, equipped, trained and loved us like no other. We are forever grateful to God for leading us to become a part of the Converge MidAtlantic family.



Randall Anderson,
Church Planter
Virginia

The assessment was so much more than we expected. I am so grateful to Brian Weber for encouraging us to attend. It was life changing and I don't say that lightly. In fact, I was surprised that, at 53 years of age, I could still use the "life changing" phrase. We were mentally and physically spent by the end but it felt good because we knew it was for our good. The most helpful things for me and my wife were the gifting and leadership profiles that were provided to us through a battery of tests that were taken prior to our arrival. We appreciated that they not only took the time to explain the results but also how we could better understand ourselves and those whom we will minister with in the future. I HIGHLY recommend this assessment to anyone contemplating planting a church. You AND your future church family will be the beneficiary.



Nick Daleo,
Church Planter
New Jersey

Church planting never really entered my mind and, if I'm being honest, I have this fire in me to preach the Word and opportunities were limited. We were given a unanimous green light to plant at the Assessment Center. Ever since then, with the support of Bayside Chapel and Converge MidAtlantic, we have been in planting mode. We're in the process of acquiring a 6-acre property with a full church facility on it. Our core team of 16 people is in place and rehab of the property begins later this fall. I will be relieved of my current duties at Bayside in January 2020 to focus on relationship building in the new communities we're going to serve. We're excited to share that Proving Ground Church will launch in Lakehurst, NJ in September 2020!

Your partnership and gifts to Converge MidAtlantic are helping more people follow Jesus through new churches.

STRENGTHEN

Every family goes through good times and difficult challenges. Each of us has experienced seasons of mourning and times of laughter. The same is true for churches! This is why it's important for Converge churches to know and care for each other. We are convinced that healthy churches are led by healthy leaders, and pastors thrive when they have environments to strengthen one another. For this reason, Converge MidAtlantic creates gatherings so that you and your church leaders can share best practices, advance in your ministry skills, and grow together. Our conferences, workshops, LEAD Team meetings, and special events like COMPASS are settings where you can be equipped to increase ministry impact. Our coaching networks and other resources provide support so that your ministry and personal life can thrive.

Compass provided a much-needed respite during an exhausting ministry season. It was refreshing to meet other pastors, ministry leaders and their spouses who are in a similar stage of ministry. These are confidants in a profession that can often be very lonely. We shared common experiences, provided support and built friendships that will last for years to come. I came into Compass with a positive outlook on ministry. I felt like I was in a healthy place both professionally and personally, but Compass helped me realize some barriers in my life that needed to be addressed in order to truly thrive. All of this, plus the tools provided for personal and ministry growth, makes Compass a must for pastors and ministry leaders. Whether you are exhausted and worn down, need support and guidance further into God's Will or just need an overall boost and some new ministry friends, Compass provides it all.



Ross Manders,
Lead Pastor
Restoration Church



21%
OF FUNDS GO
TO CHURCH
STRENGTHENING



Together, we can strengthen churches and reach more people for Jesus!

Stories of Impact



Breakout Session at the United Conference

I just wanted to let you know how rich the conference was. I was really encouraged by the diversity on the stage and the theme United. I could tell there was a lot of intentionality and organization that went into the event. I had quite a few stimulating conversations about discipleship and movement. There seems to be a growing hunger. Thank you for the privilege of participating.

Dan White,
Church Planter & Author

267

PEOPLE ATTENDED
UNITED CONFERENCE
IN JUNE 2019

6

MAIN SESSION
SPEAKERS

14

WORKSHOPS LED
BY CONVERGE
PASTORS AND
LEADERS



Jared Heaton,
Lead Pastor
Lakewood Baptist
Church

I am the lead pastor of a church that had the same pastor for the last 30 years before his retirement and my arrival. In a particularly difficult season, we utilized the mediation services Converge MidAtlantic offered. Two pastors from our region came to our church twice. They listened to our church leaders share the issues at hand, and they offered insights and recommendations for how we could move forward as a body of Christ. Those recommendations continue to guide us as we discover a new mission and vision for our church. We are recasting ministry strategies and developing more leaders for our Elder and Deacon teams. Converge MidAtlantic also provided our church with a ministry coach to guide us through our revisioning process. And personally, Converge helped me find a coach to grow me and shape me into the pastor my church needs me to be.

LEAD TEAMS



Central Ohio LEAD Team

It was such a powerful morning on March 12, 2019, when six ministers from the Central Ohio Lead Team gathered together to examine and ultimately affirm David Connell, Regional Impact Team Leader for Latin America & Caribbean. The call on his life was evident, and his diligence in preparation and faithful steps of obedience were both abundantly evident.

What took place a couple of months ago wasn't a fluke. It wasn't some non-essential that many rightly don't make room for in their schedules. It wasn't something I was strong-armed into doing and ended up being thankful for; it was not a total waste of my precious time. As someone who has been highly involved with our movement, the words "Better Together" are so much more than just a slogan to me.

Being a deep part of Converge MidAtlantic has enriched my life and ministry in significant ways. This is my family's tribe. This is my family. My belief is not only that we are better together, but that we truly need each other, and this chilly, sunny, morning in March was a picture, for me, of just how true this is.

*Robert Paterson,
Lead Pastor
New Hope Community Church*



*Being a deep part of
Converge MidAtlantic
has enriched my
life and ministry in
significant ways.*



LEAD Teams *Learn, Encourage, Achieve and Dream Together!*

People are lonelier today than ever. Research shows that loneliness can be more deadly than smoking 15 cigarettes a day! And 70% of pastors do not have someone they consider a close friend. LEAD Teams are front lines for pastors and church leaders to know each other and partner together in ministry. These groups meet regularly throughout the Converge MidAtlantic region. Pastors share best practices and pray for each other. They also collaborate to start and strengthen churches, develop leaders, and engage the world with the Gospel.



Your gifts to Converge MidAtlantic ensure that pastors are regularly encouraged through LEAD Teams!

Delaware Valley LEAD TEAM with Dr. Harold Lewis

SEND

What would your life be like without Jesus? It's hard to imagine. The grace of God gives each of us purpose and hope for the future. Did you know that there are more than 4700 ethnic groups in the world that have not yet heard the Gospel? That's 1.8 billion people who have not experienced the life-changing love of God. The good news is that you can make a difference! Converge MidAtlantic churches, like yours, are raising up a new generation of missionaries to reach the world. In partnership with Converge International Ministries and The Timothy Initiative, your church can engage in strategic, global initiatives. **You can help start new churches in some of the least-reached areas of the world, so that everyone has the chance to hear and accept the Good News!**

Our Partnerships

CONVERGE MISSIONARIES

As a Converge MidAtlantic pastor for 16 years, I've seen first-hand how beneficial a network of churches can be. When we wanted to pursue a partnership with national leaders in Japan, Converge was the connector that helped us find a partner just outside of Tokyo. Through that experience, I fell in love with Converge's global vision to focus on least-reached people groups on earth—so much so that I'm now joining them as the Japan Initiative leader. I will be coaching cross-cultural workers in church planting and community development, and bringing together a network of churches to ask God for a gospel movement. We want to see the Japanese people go from unreached to reached in our lifetime. As I was called into this huge challenge of transition and sacrifice via cross cultural ministry, one of the things that gave me confidence was knowing Converge MidAtlantic and our national leadership will be there—every step of the way.

*Brian Lusky,
Japan-Initiative Missionary
Grace Church Erie, PA*



Converge MidAtlantic Missionaries at UNITED

33

CONVERGE
MISSIONARIES FROM
OUR DISTRICT

14

COUNTRIES
RESPRESENTED



Pastor Ron Crawford in Guatemala with Compassion

1522

CHILDREN SPONSORED
THROUGH COMPASSION
INTERNATIONAL

16

CHURCHES PARTNERING
WITH COMPASSION
INTERNATIONAL

Our Partnerships

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Proverbs 22:9

Converge has an amazing legacy for serving the poorest neighborhoods in the world through Compassion International. Compassion was started by a Converge pastor in the 1950s, and it is one of the largest, most trusted humanitarian organizations today. Converge MidAtlantic churches are making global connections for God's Kingdom through child sponsorship. It's an effective and relational way for families and Christ-followers like you to participate in global missions in a life-changing way.

Here at home in Ashland, Ohio, Compassion not only helps our church family be on God's mission, but also helps us stay on mission. In fact, we've created a world map that shows a connection between the sponsors in our church and their sponsored children. It's not unusual to see congregants stop and pray for the children as they pass the map. Whether or not each church member has the financial means to sponsor a child, we all share our church's mission in Togo. We are so grateful that God helped our church overcome challenges and excuses. Because we now realize the relationships we are developing in Togo are so significant to the life of Cross Connect Church, we've added a phrase in our mission statement that reflects our commitment: We bring grace, mercy, compassion and the truth of Jesus into a broken culture. It's a mission we are 100 percent behind--without excuses.



Tommy Theisen,
Lead Pastor
Cross Connect Church



BIBLICAL DIVERSITY

God calls each one of us to be a bridge-builder. Gospel movements can affect entire communities and build bridges across ethnic, economic, and cultural barriers. Our churches should be most equipped to connect people with God's love and set the pace for racial and cultural harmony. We can demonstrate to the rest of the world how we treat others based on the life-changing grace of the gospel. **Ultimately, our hearts' cry is to reach people of all colors, cultures and classes and make Jesus known throughout the world.**



On October 4th, Converge MidAtlantic was honored to partner with Dr. Harold Lewis from the Converge National Office to host a Biblical Diversity Workshop. The Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. made an impressive backdrop for 34 pastors and leaders from the MidAtlantic region to engage in this important discussion.

The goals of the workshop were as follows:

- To learn about Biblical Diversity and how to build strong cross-cultural relationships for the future advancement of the Kingdom of God
- To learn and grow together through honest conversations about racial, ethnic and cultural issues
- To lay the foundation, through exercises and activities, for future participation
- To empower leadership by forming a District Biblical Diversity Team





Vietnamese UNITED Worship Night

Vietnamese UNITED Worship Gathering

On August 25, 2019, a monumental event occurred as four Converge MidAtlantic Vietnamese Churches gathered with the purpose of being UNITED to worship God. One hundred thirty were present to fellowship, build relationships among their churches and learn how to grow their ministries. There was also a variety of delicious Vietnamese food enjoyed by all in attendance! The churches have a goal of meeting together quarterly over the next two years. It's their desire to invite other Vietnamese churches around the Washington D. C. area to join them. The following churches were a part of this special gathering:

- NOVA Vietnamese Church (Pastor Hai Tuan Tra)
- Philadelphia Vietnamese Community Fellowship (Pastor Kevin Cuong Phu Nguyen)
- Vietnamese Grace Community Church of Cleveland (Pastor Hung Mong Nguyen)
- Converge Viet Church of Fairfax (Pastor Phu Hong Pham).

130

PEOPLE GATHER FOR
THE VIETNAMESE
WORSHIP NIGHTS

9

LANGUAGE
GROUPS BEING
REACHED

4

CHURCHES
HAVE SERVICES
ACCESSIBLE TO
THE DEAF

Together we can promote cross-cultural understanding, peace and harmony in your church and community.

CAMP BURTON

Camp Burton is a Christ-centered environment located in Burton, Ohio, that has been serving youth and adults for over 50 years. They host thousands of people at their 129-acre facility every year. Camp Burton encourages individual growth through developing life-changing relationships and fun!

Stories of Impact

Mark came to camp with his church group from Michigan, not as a camper, but to help his pastor and to join our high school S.W.A.T. group. He had never been away to camp and was new to being part of the leadership team. After the first day, it was easy to see that he was a little overwhelmed. By helping with worship and daily camp activities, Mark's confidence and relationship with Christ grew tremendously! This normally reserved young man became passionate and emboldened for Christ, fearlessly sharing the gospel with kids in his cabin. At the end of the week, his camp experience so impacted him that he asked his pastor to baptize him in the camp pool! His salvation story encouraged and challenged the kids at camp to share Christ with others.



Dave Scull,
Director of Camp Burton
Burton, Ohio

You can change the lives of more young people like Mark. Visit campburton.org to donate directly to camp.



Ways to Give to Converge MidAtlantic

BUDGET GIVING

Increase your financial commitment to Converge MidAtlantic in your church budget for next year.

SPECIAL OFFERING

Consider a special gift to Converge MidAtlantic before December 31st.

DONATE ONLINE

Regardless of the day, the time, or the method of payment, you will have the ability to give securely online. Visit converge.org/midatlantic/partners

eCHECK

Direct giving from your bank account allows you to make gifts easily and consistently. Visit converge.org/midatlantic/ways-to-give to get started.

MAIL

Write a check payable to *Converge MidAtlantic* and send it to:
Converge MidAtlantic
7105 Herbert Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406

THANK YOU!

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the Gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the Gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. Colossians 1:3-6

These verses are an example of the difference you are making in partnership with Converge MidAtlantic. It starts with two basic principles of the Christian life—*faith in Jesus* and *love for people*. This is the heart and soul of the Converge MidAtlantic movement. The hope of God within you overflows and affects everyone around you. Lives are changed and communities are transformed for the better by the grace of God and the message of the gospel.

We hope you are encouraged by the stories of impact in this report. We are truly grateful for your faithfulness and generosity. Our vision is that we will continue this mission together, until every neighborhood is affected by God's grace.

Financial Integrity

You are a key partner in accomplishing God's mission.

There's a great feeling of purpose, meaning and fulfillment in your life when you give to expand God's kingdom across the street and around the world. Through your gift to Converge MidAtlantic, you're connecting to something much bigger than yourself. Your gift gives someone an opportunity to accept Jesus.

On the next page is the financial summary for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and we are pleased to report that our balances are healthy. More importantly, we want you to see that we have organized our budget around our core ministry endeavors. When you give to Converge MidAtlantic, these funds are allocated specifically toward our mission and vision. The more you give, the more we can accomplish together.

At Converge MidAtlantic, we highly value financial integrity and we live it out on a daily basis. We have effective processes and policies in place to ensure that we are good stewards of the resources you entrust to us. We sincerely thank you for partnering with us to help people meet, know and follow Jesus by starting and strengthening churches together worldwide. The best is yet to come!

Partner with Converge MidAtlantic and Converge National

Converge is a movement of Gospel-centered churches like yours who voluntarily minister together. Churches are organized into eleven regional districts including Converge MidAtlantic. There is also a national office that further serves the churches and districts. Join us in celebrating all that God is accomplishing through your partnership with Converge MidAtlantic and Converge National.

CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC

- Focuses locally and regionally
- Sends regional missionaries and church planters
- Establishes regional partnerships
- Resources local churches and pastors
- Responds to local crisis needs
- Provides pastoral placement and interim services
- Offers capital campaign coaching
- Mobilizes local churches for Kingdom impact

CONVERGE NATIONAL

- Focuses nationally and internationally
- Sends global missionaries
- Establishes national and global partnerships
- Resources regional initiatives and leaders
- Responds to national and global crisis needs
- Provides Cornerstone Fund loans and investments
- Offers access to Converge Retirement Plan
- Mobilizes districts and churches for nationwide initiatives

We humbly ask you to give generously and cheerfully as the Lord leads. For every \$3 that you give to Converge MidAtlantic, we recommend giving \$1 to Converge National.

An ideal goal is that churches would give 3% of their church budget to Converge MidAtlantic and 1% of their church budget to Converge National.

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

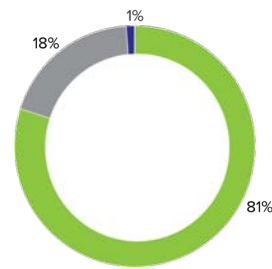
ASSETS

Cash	\$177,485
Investments	\$197,124
	\$374,609



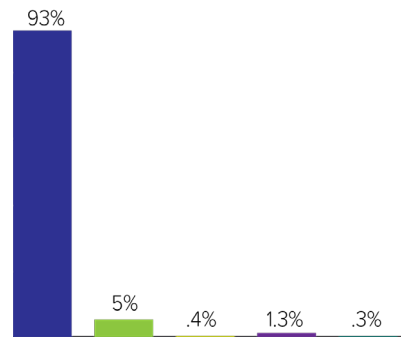
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities	\$3,492
Net Assets-Unrestricted	\$304,907
Net Assets-Restricted	\$66,210
	\$374,609



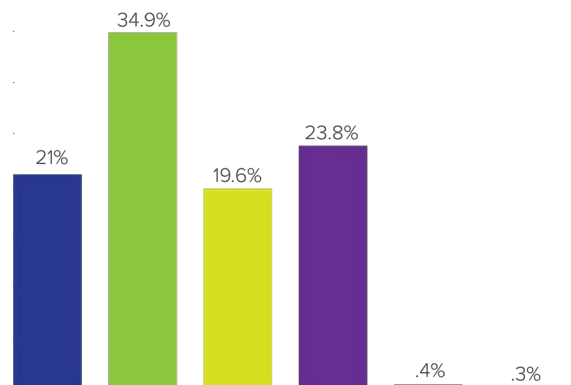
CONTRIBUTIONS/REVENUE

Churches	\$645,404
Individuals	\$37,352
Events Registrations	\$2,493
Earned Revenue	\$8,996
Interest	\$1,987
	\$696,232



EXPENSES

Church Strengthening	\$145,406
Church Planting	\$241,011
Operations	\$135,244
Global Missions	\$164,521
Communications	\$3,000
Other	\$2,315
	\$691,497



Want to go deeper with Converge MidAtlantic?

Will you prayerfully consider deepening your
relationship with Converge MidAtlantic?

Contact us!



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