



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020

START. STRENGTHEN. SEND.

C O N T E N T S

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MESSAGE FROM BRIAN WEBER

Hear from our Executive Minister about how Converge MidAtlantic churches displayed a spirit of hope and perseverance in 2020.

04/05

INNOVATION & SERVICE

This year churches were forced to adjust to new realities and love their communities in creative ways.

06/07

CHURCH STRENGTHENING

Converge MidAtlantic focused on four areas to strengthen churches together during this tumultuous year.

08/09

STARTING CHURCHES

Church planters continued their efforts to start new congregations this year. The need was too great, and the mission hasn't changed.

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SNAPSHOTS OF 2020

We experienced life this year through window frames and computer screens. This is a glimpse of Converge MidAtlantic.

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BIBLICAL DIVERSITY

Converge MidAtlantic is committed to celebrating and deepening the cultural diversity of our churches.

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Hear how God is moving churches toward powerful partnerships that are changing the world.

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CAMP BURTON

Families and youth found rest and spiritual renewal even though camping was different this year.

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These figures from the 2019-2020 fiscal year show how Converge MidAtlantic invests in starting and strengthening churches.

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THANK YOU

You are making a life-changing impact through your gifts to Converge MidAtlantic. Consider these ways to deepen your partnership with us.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER GREETING



May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

What will the history books write about 2020? This has been a year full of uncertainty, hardship, grief, and division. We experienced one crisis after another like a boxer takes punches against the ropes. Usually during times like these, Christians will gather in large numbers at churches for prayer and comfort. Yet this year has been so different because of the pandemic, most churches could not even meet together.

Near the end of his letter, Paul reminded the Christians in Rome that God provides patience and encouragement during difficult times. God gave us the scriptures to teach us about his perfect character, his righteous works, and his many promises for those who believe. When we have faith that God keeps his promises, we also have hope and the strength to persevere.

It was amazing to watch Converge MidAtlantic churches respond to the challenges of the pandemic. Congregations across our district behaved like people of patience, peace, encouragement, and hope. In the pages of this annual report, we want to share many of the positive stories about how God worked through

local churches this year. The people of Converge MidAtlantic, like you, adjusted to new ways of doing ministry and loving our neighbors. We actively pursued our mission together to start and strengthen churches, despite the difficulties of the season.

The Apostle Paul also teaches Christians to “live in complete harmony with each other.” This is a way that we can be an example to our broken world. During 2020, our culture also experienced an increase of anger, division, and violence among different groups of people. This spirit of disunity sometimes showed itself within churches too. I am so proud of Converge MidAtlantic pastors who preached God’s Word weekly and challenged people to love one another sacrificially as Jesus taught us.

Converge MidAtlantic is a culturally diverse movement of gospel-centered churches. Our desire is to join together, arm in arm, so that every neighborhood in our region has a healthy, vibrant church. As you read this report, I invite you to join me in giving praise to God with one voice for the many things the Lord is doing among us, even in the most difficult of years.

J. Brian Weber
BRIAN WEBER
Executive Minister

INNOVATION & SERVICE

The country came to a sudden halt on March 11th when Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert tested positive for Coronavirus. Soon college and professional sports events were canceled nationwide. States instituted stay-at-home orders. Churches closed their doors. What happened next was an amazing testimony to the adaptability of Converge MidAtlantic churches. Undaunted by the dangers of this unknown illness, Christians were determined to fellowship somehow and continue the work of the gospel. Pastors across the district called one another for advice. The disruption caused by the pandemic would last all year and bring about many difficulties. Yet the collaboration between churches and perseverance of faithful Christians, like you, were inspiring. Here are some examples throughout our district.



This is what it looks like when two years of sidewalk conversations and occasional texts turn into an “I’m in for a bible study” gathering in the most natural and unscripted way. My heart is full and amazed! God is on the move.

-Becky M.



OLD NORTH CHURCH
CANFIELD, OH



CREATIVE WORSHIP

NEW HOPE CHURCH
WOOSTER, OH

On Easter Sunday, Triway High School let New Hope Church use its property to host a drive-in service. God showed up in many ways as people filled out online connect cards — saying yes to Jesus and rededicating their lives to him. “It was so fun being able to ‘be together’ and having everyone honk their horns in praise and joy over their Risen Savior,” said Nikki Broughton, Director of Connections, Women’s and Kids Ministry. “Definitely a first for our church and a first for our schools and community.”



LOVE PEOPLE

NEW BEGINNINGS
COMMUNITY CHURCH
MATTHEWS, NORTH CAROLINA

#ContagiousLove was an outreach campaign established to mobilize New Beginnings Church and their volunteers in the continued efforts to extend God’s Love to others during this time of distancing and uncertainty. *#ContagiousLove* was established to provide encouragement and appreciation for frontline and essential personnel that cannot work from home. By targeting area businesses near their three campuses, they were able to reach people and help spread the gospel.



FRONT YARD MISSIONS
STATE COLLEGE, PA

The silver lining of COVID was the explosion of neighboring opportunities all around Calvary. Many people stepped up to love their neighbors in creative and inspiring ways. Stories abounded of people sharing food from their gardens, helping run errands, organizing socially distanced gatherings, and prayer walking throughout their neighborhoods, even neighborhood concerts! To date, 351 people have signed into their text-based FYM HQ and engaged in over 2000 neighboring actions.



PASSOVER SADER ON YOUTUBE
DERWOOD, MARYLAND

Son of David Congregation is a new Converge MidAtlantic member that reaches families from Jewish backgrounds. On April 8th, Congregation Leader Denis Karp shared his family’s Passover Seder on YouTube. People from many churches watched as Mr. Karp explained the meaning of this biblical celebration and the story of the cross.



BETTER TOGETHER EVENT
DELAWARE, MARYLAND

12

DELAWARE
CHURCHES

Pastor Darius Brown of Wilmington, DE, hosted an event on February 22nd to introduce pastors to Converge, called *Better Together*. Pastor Charles Whitaker was a guest speaker.

+14

ONLINE MEETINGS

On September 23rd, two LEAD Teams hosted a webinar with Dale Sellers from the 95 Network about leading churches through crisis. LEAD teams are a lifeline for pastors to find encouragement and support, led by fellow pastors who serve as Regional Directors.

WE ARE
BETTER
TOGETHER

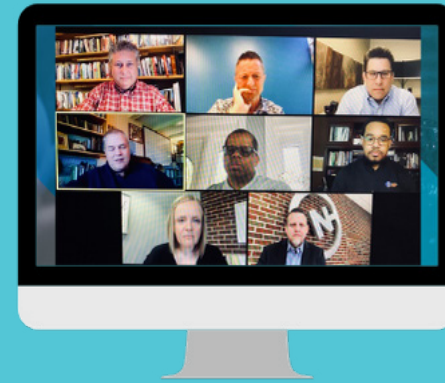
CHURCH STRENGTHENING

“Pandemic fatigue” was a phrase that we frequently heard. A global pandemic, economic shutdown, political tensions, and outcry against racial inequality resulted in dramatic changes for churches. Pastors were forced to make decisions on a week-by-week basis. The challenges of 2020 were ongoing, and churches were stuck in a season of uncertainty. The ministry of Converge MidAtlantic also adjusted as we sought to serve our member churches during these current events.

7

COUPLES

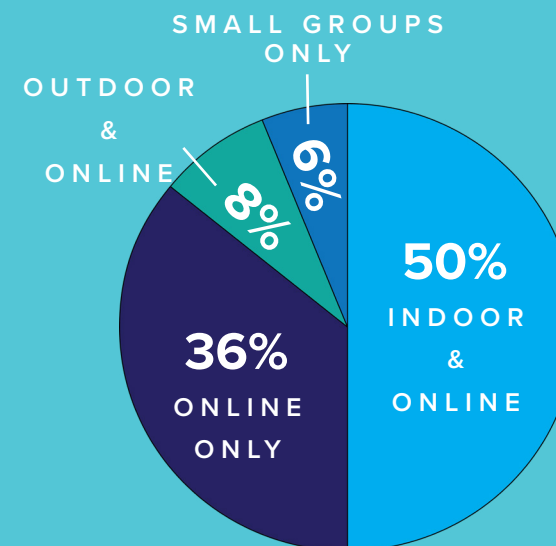
Seven pastors and spouses participated in *COMPASS* on October 19-21 at the beautiful Bayside Hotel and Grace Church in Erie, PA. In small groups, these leaders were challenged to consider current obstacles and make strategic plans. Strategic Initiatives Manager Emily Manders and the Converge team worked hard to care for pastors, following the recommended health guidelines.



+100

PARTICIPANTS

On May 13, 2020, seven Converge pastors and leaders joined Church Strengthening Director Jason Allison during our *Moving Forward Together* webinar. One of the great challenges facing churches this year was planning to relaunch their in-person ministries safely and effectively. Our congregations have different sizes, locations, and cultures. Nonetheless, they worked together to help one another rebound stronger than ever.



CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC
CHURCHES IN OCTOBER

CORONAVIRUS PLAN

Converge MidAtlantic focused on four areas to strengthen churches during this tumultuous year:

- » Focus on the needs of most vulnerable churches
- » Equip pastors to make wise decisions with current and accurate information
- » Be a hub for creative ideas and practical how-to's
- » Connect pastors so that they don't feel isolated

4,827

PEOPLE
REACHED

Social media was a great way to share content instantly with our district community. Converge churches posted inspiring stories and shared practical advice with each other frequently. Each week, Communications Manager Jenny Bolinger

and the Converge MidAtlantic team discussed the most critical issues facing churches and prepared email updates to address them. Topics included online ministries, electronic giving, preaching techniques, special events, CARES Act information, soul care, and more. The best resources were posted on our website for on-demand access.

\$94,300 RELIEF
MONIES

The U.S. government offered relief for churches in the form of PPP loans for payroll expenses. Business Manager Liz Heavener and the Converge MidAtlantic team researched and communicated timely information so that many district churches could take advantage of these loans.

- \$29,300 of PPP funds secured for five member churches in need
- \$65,000 of Converge National relief funds for five church plants

STARTING CHURCHES

Church planters were eager to launch new congregations even as the pandemic continued. But getting started was much different than they imagined. They needed to re-strategize and come up with new plans. These new churches began by mobilizing efforts to meet needs in their neighborhoods, like distributing food, caring for isolated families, and supporting essential workers. Then, they began online gatherings using Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Some churches even managed to start in-person worship services wearing masks and social-distancing.

<p>5 NEW CHURCHES HAD GRAND OPENINGS</p>	<p>7 NEW CHURCHES PLANNING TO LAUNCH IN 2021</p>	<p>GOAL TO START 30 CHURCHES BY 2025</p>
<p>5 CHURCH PLANTERS RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>10 CANDIDATES IN THE PIPELINE FOR FUTURE ASSESSMENT</p>	
<p>\$20,000 RAISED FOR CHURCH PLANTING</p>	<p>80 DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES</p>	



CHURCH PLANTING ASSESSMENT PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA

Converge MidAtlantic hosted the church planting assessment on October 27-28 in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Although the gathering was limited to 25 people and followed local health guidelines, three ministry couples were approved to start new churches with Converge.



LaunchNow was an effort to raise funds to start nine new churches. Each church is preparing to launch in 2020 and 2021. We asked these planters, “Why would you continue to launch a new church in the middle of a national crisis?” Common sense might suggest it is better to wait until the pandemic is over. But each church planter insisted that now is the best time to launch. In fact, some of them adjusted their strategies to start even sooner. The need is just too urgent. **Five of these churches had grand openings already in 2020**, and more than a dozen people have been baptized. Your prayers and generous support make this amazing work possible.

“There are so many people who are hurting. There are so many people who need to hear the hope and love of Jesus. Why NOT start now! The need is great, and the mission hasn’t changed.” *-Nick Daleo, Church Planter*

“Got the check! This is going to come in so handy as we are literally ordering sound equipment this week! I appreciate all your effort in making this happen. It really is a tremendous blessing.” *-Randall Anderson, Church Planter*



I envision a new church in our community with believers serving and leading people to the hope and to the help they need most. We may need to be more creative, but we can’t slow down.

-Sean Lee, Church Planter



OUR MISSION

WE HELP PEOPLE MEET,
KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS.
WE DO THIS BY STARTING AND
STRENGTHENING CHURCHES
TOGETHER WORLDWIDE.

OUR VALUES

We are devoted to being one
movement that is:



SPIRITUALLY
DEVOTED



MISSIONALLY
DRIVEN



RELATIONALLY
CONNECTED



CULTURALLY
DIVERSE





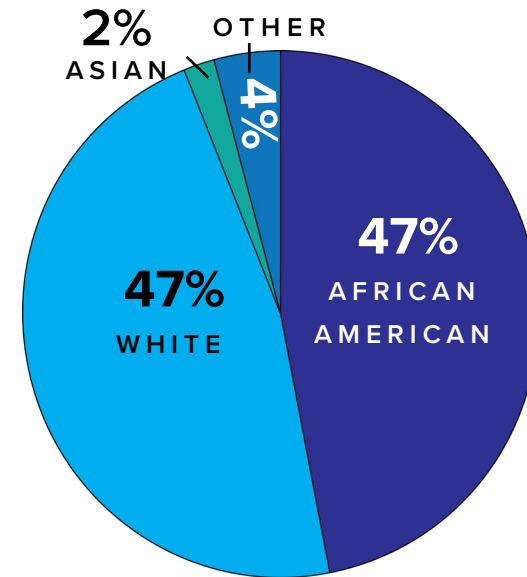
NOVA CHURCH
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

BIBLICAL DIVERSITY NEWS & NOTES AROUND THE DISTRICT

Converge MidAtlantic pastors used their influence to deepen understanding on race and justice in their communities. We shared these events on our social media pages to promote understanding and unity.

- Pastor Elwood Jones of Landmark Church broadcasted a weekly panel discussion on Facebook with Dr. Efreem Smith.
- Pastor John Jenkins of First Baptist Church of Glenarden and Dr. Laurel Bunker from Bethel University participated in a national webinar event with Ed Stetzer.
- Calvary Church in State College collaborated with other local churches to form the Racial Unity Network to address these issues in Central Pennsylvania.
- Pastor Rod Hairston of Messiah Community Church was a panelist in a discussion about race with Converge President Scott Ridout during the REACH conference.

CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC CHURCH MEMBERS



BIBLICAL DIVERSITY



The issues of racial inequality in America came into sharp focus again this year. The pandemic highlighted the disparities in the healthcare system. At the same time, the public responded to the tragic deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd. Millions of people marched in protests across the country.

Converge MidAtlantic is a culturally diverse movement of gospel-centered churches. Since our founding in 1903, the movement sought to welcome churches and start ministries among people from many different cultural backgrounds. We affirm the beautiful diversity of all God's people, and we desire to live out the oneness of the church as envisioned by Jesus in the Bible. Converge MidAtlantic is committed to celebrating and deepening the cultural diversity of our churches.



DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

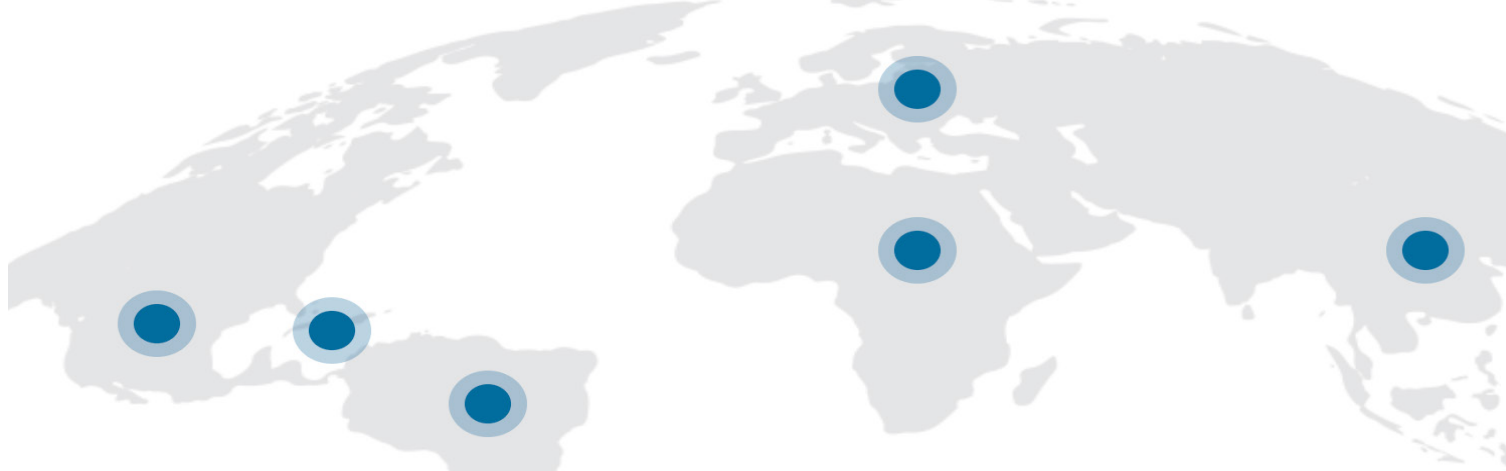
Converge MidAtlantic is working alongside the National Office of Biblical Diversity to assemble a district leadership team and advance efforts to promote multicultural unity, reconciliation, and cooperation among our churches. Pastor Jim Eaton and Pastor Phu Pham serve on the Diversity Advisory Council for Converge National. The Converge MidAtlantic Board of Overseers affirmed a Racial Unity Statement this year to reflect our historic value for cultural diversity. Read more about our commitment to biblical diversity on our website.



A trip that changed my life. Our new Diversity Advisory Council met in Montgomery, Alabama in February 2020 for our inaugural cultural immersion experience. Natalie & I and our team toured The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and walked the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma. Lament. Prayer. Conversations. Relationships. Vision. Building a movement.” *-Jim Eaton, Mosaic Church*

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Reaching every tongue, tribe and nation



2:10 FOCUS CHALLENGE

Some churches responded to the disruptions of 2020 by pursuing new strategies for global outreach. Teams of leaders were coached by Converge through a process called the 2:10 FOCUS Challenge. FOCUSing helped these churches discover their unique strengths and resources for global impact, and they developed new partnerships and shared goals. The following are MidAtlantic 2:10 Global Focus churches so far.

- Wellspring Church, Southern Cone
- Grace Point, Lebanon
- New Hope Church, 15:5 West Initiative
- River of Life Church, In Process
- The Triumphant Church, In Process



BETTER TOGETHER

“It is extremely encouraging to have a district partner working alongside International Ministries. Global Outreach Manager Jenny Bolinger is working together with the Converge U.S. Engagement Team to provide coaching and international opportunities to the churches of the MidAtlantic District. It is a beautiful demonstration of *Better*



FROM THE GROUND:

“The Focus 2:10 process was insightful on so many different levels. It helped us see how discipleship and evangelism are counterparts. Discipleship fuels evangelism and evangelism fuels discipleship. This has helped us beyond missions. The process was eye opening. To the missions focus, I started with a personal preference, but God moved us towards a powerful partnership that will bless the whole church. The process is healthy, thorough and Spirit-led.”

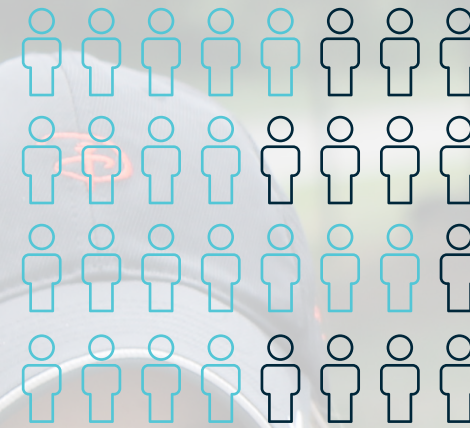
- Jason Coache,
Wellspring Church

Together. In serving one another, we are seeing discipleship happen at home and global workers encouraged abroad — as we ask God for a gospel movement among every least-reached people group in our generation.”

-Jimmy Smith,
U.S. Church Mobilization Specialist

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 groups throughout the year on their 129-acre facility. Camp Burton encourages individual growth through developing life-changing relationships and fun! Camp is a great way to reach youth and develop leaders for the future. Visit campburton.org to donate directly to camp.



+ 249
CAMPERS ATTENDED
THIS SUMMER

This year we had two weeks of kids camp, one week of Day Camp, two weeks of SWAT and Family Camp. In fact Family Camp sold out with 19 families. The staff even slept off site that week because every building was used for families. Day Camp was very popular this year. Concerned parents seemed to be more comfortable with Day Camp vs. spending the nights.



We had 12 decisions for Christ this summer! I know God sowed seeds in everyone by using the staff to share His truth of hope and grace in Christ with all the kids.

-Dave Scull, Camp Director

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SUMMER

- » Because of donations, we provided over \$4,000 in summer camp scholarships!
- » Summer staff of 15 high school and college kids served very well and are stronger and bolder in their faith!
- » Continued to make facility improvements with updates to 2 cabins, the Chapel, the Kingsley Center, Len Hall and more!

BY THE NUMBERS

PASTORS COACHED
17

CULTURAL OR ETHNIC CHURCHES
45%

ATTENDEES IN NINE STATES
35,000

CHURCHES PLANTED SINCE 2010
27

PASTORS ENGAGED IN A LEAD TEAM
85

NEW PASTORS INSTALLED
6

CHURCHES
103

CONVERGE MISSIONARIES SERVING 14 COUNTRIES
33

COMPASSION CHILDREN SPONSORED BY CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC CHURCHES
+1500

REGIONAL LEAD TEAM MEETINGS
18

LAUNGUAGE GROUPS BEING REACHED
9

CELEBRATING RETIREMENTS

Pastor David and Karen Yeiser at First Baptist Church of Greenhills in Greenhills, OH, and Pastor David and Lynette Skelton at Anchor Church in Avon Lake, OH. We celebrate the legacy of leadership and service that each of these families leave behind.



It is an encouragement to be part of a smaller group of pastors in the area that meet to care for and pray for each other. It is good to be part of something that is bigger than us that we are able to participate in.

-Joel Dingeldein, Calvary Baptist Church Warren, PA



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is Converge MidAtlantic?

Converge is a growing movement of gospel-centered churches, and we at Converge MidAtlantic are one of 11 regional networks of our partner churches. For more than 150 years, district leaders served as missionaries to coordinate regional church planting and outreach ministries. Today we are active in starting new churches, and we are fully engaged in strengthening our partner churches through consulting, training, and coaching. We are committed to starting and strengthening churches and equipping leaders who will impact the world with the message of Jesus.

How does funding work?

Converge is financially dependent on our partner churches and individual donors to staff and accomplish the many ministries we provide. We humbly ask you to give generously and cheerfully as the Lord leads. **For every \$3 that you give to Converge MidAtlantic, we recommend that you give \$1 to Converge National.** *An ideal goal is that partner churches would give 3% of their church budget to Converge MidAtlantic and 1% to Converge National.* Your donations make an enormous difference!

What is the relationship between Converge National and Converge MidAtlantic?

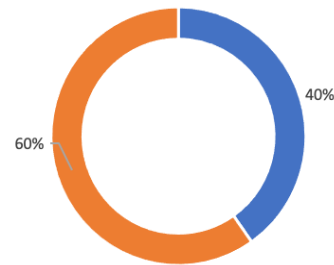
Converge National has a countrywide and international focus, deploying global workers and establishing national and international partnerships. They organize conferences and assessments to support nationwide church planting and strengthening. They provide disaster relief, a national chaplaincy program, the Converge Retirement Plan and Converge Cornerstone Fund for church loans and investments.

Converge MidAtlantic has a local and regional focus. We work alongside churches to deploy new pastors, church planters and global missionaries regionally. We establish regional partnerships to strengthen churches, pastors, and leaders. Converge MidAtlantic provides pastoral care, fundraising strategies, pastoral placement, interim services, consulting, and coaching for local churches. Converge MidAtlantic has a great team to serve you and your church. Get to know us at converge.org/midatlantic/about/district-staff.

FINANCIAL REPORT

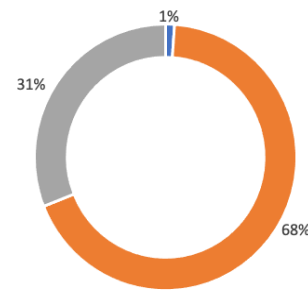
ASSETS

Investments	\$236,283
Cash	\$159,211
Total	\$395,494



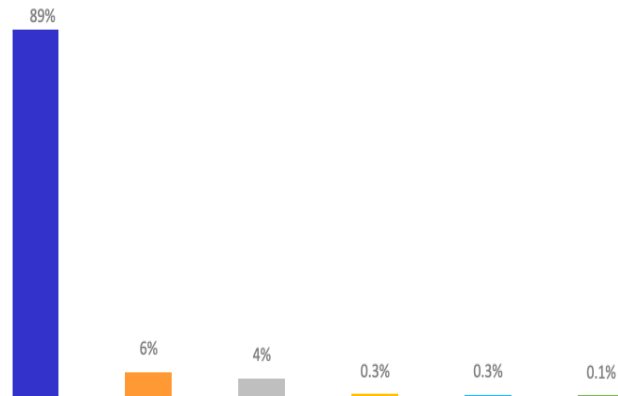
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities	\$4,305
Net Assets-Unrestricted	\$268,601
Net Assets-Restricted	\$122,588
Total	\$395,494



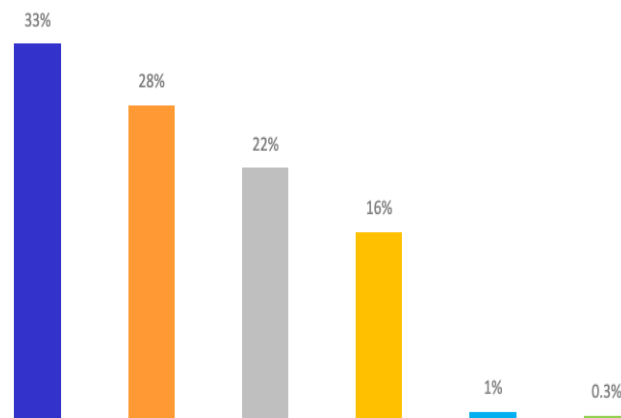
CONTRIBUTIONS/REVENUE

Churches	\$688,061
Individuals	\$44,775
Events	\$32,170
Interest	\$2,678
Other	\$2,429
Earned Revenue	\$1,016
Total	\$771,129



EXPENSES

Church Planting	\$247,147
Church Strengthening	\$206,928
Global Missions	\$165,516
Operations	\$123,516
Communications	\$5,498
Other	\$2,575
Total	\$751,058



One of the most common words in the Bible is to give. It is used more than 2000 times in the Old Testament and more than 400 times in the New Testament. The creator of the universe is the God who gives. Whenever we give cheerfully and sacrificially to others, we act in the same way as our creator. We can bear his image.

You are making a life-changing impact through your gifts to Converge MidAtlantic. Our mission is to come alongside local churches to strengthen them and help them make a difference in our neighborhoods. Together we encourage pastors and train leaders to start new ministries. With your support, churches are making a great impact in the lives of people more than ever.

We have witnessed the tremendous efforts of Converge MidAtlantic churches to meet the needs of neighborhoods during this difficult year. Churches are mobilizing Christians to care for people, distributing food, supporting essential workers, comforting families in mourning, cleaning up streets, conducting prayer vigils, hosting learning centers for students, and more. Local churches are on the front lines in caring for people during times of crisis.

Your partnership makes this important work possible. Generosity is part of the perfect character of God. We deeply appreciate your generous support so that we might honor God together.

Brian
BRIAN WEBER

THANK YOU

WAYS TO GIVE



BUDGET GIVING

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



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.



SPECIAL OFFERING

Consider a gift to Converge MidAtlantic at the holidays or other special occasions.



MAIL

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



DONATE ONLINE

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

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a blue pushpin, pinning it to a map. The map shows various roads and geographical features. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hand and the pushpin. The overall tone is warm and focused.

**CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC IS A MOVEMENT
OF CHURCHES WORKING TO HELP PEOPLE
MEET, KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS.**



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