

## TEAM SWEATY SHEEP



### ***Christianity On The Move***

#### **Description of the congregation and its ministry:**

In November of 2013, the existing community of Calvin Presbyterian Church partnered with Sweaty Sheep Ministries, one of the National PC(USA) New Worshiping Communities, in producing a non-traditional, contemporary, and diverse new community that is redefining “worship” through pre-service yoga practice; a 7-day a week desire to serve, grow, and play together in and outside of the walls of the church; and their casual/inclusive café style service at 9:24am (based on 1 Cor. 9:24.) The ministry is holds high value in both evangelism and mission (understanding both happen through relationship) and is seeing exponential growth, from a mere 20 attendees at the kickoff in November to a consistent 50+ currently (mid-February.) The majority of attendees are either new Christians or individuals that feel forgotten, hurt, or abandoned by past congregations and the atmosphere is one of nurture, teaching, and discipleship where leadership takes great care to keep each service interactive and relevant (not too mention creative!).

Calvin is a larger worshiping space that houses a variety of congregations including a traditional Presbyterian Church, Korean and Taiwanese churches. One thing that we have been exceedingly excited about with this new initiative lies in its ability to serve as the cultural unifier for the larger Calvin community. Recently, the Korean youth opted to join the new Sweaty Sheep Community for worship, and in doing so have provided an organical multi-cultural experience that opens the door for a variety of learning and growth opportunities as well as the base to build a diverse youth group from. In addition, several of the traditional Calvin congregants have found a place in the contemporary service, enjoying the opportunity to mentor the new Christian attendees as well as refreshment in an alternative means of worshiping.

The community is working closely with the National Presbyterian Church as well as the Mid-Ky Presbytery by being an example of innovative ministry, and will be continuing this in the year to come as we look at new means of self-sustainability that can be implored across the denomination. The program is linked in with the National 1001 movement and is receiving New Church Development coaching from Philip Lotspeich, the national coordinator for Church Growth and Development, as well as support (financial and guiding) from the Ecclesia Commission for innovative ministry of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery.

Interested individuals should have a passion for non-traditional ministry and/or church development as well as a desire for diversity in worship and outreach. They should have an understanding that Church is not a building, but the 7-day a week communal lives of those who enter the building on Sunday mornings, and thus should have a heart to be a part of those lives. With our modern sanctuary and strong web/social media presence, interested individuals should want to explore new means of utilizing technology and social media in worship and outreach and should be comfortable with, or

inclined to learn, the technology that our churches are moving towards. Finally, interested applicants should present a desire to work in ecumenical fashion as the congregation is made up of a broad range of faith traditions and the church holds high value in our relationships with other denominations in the larger community and secular networks in Louisville.

Information on Sweaty Sheep Ministries can be found at [www.sweatysheep.com](http://www.sweatysheep.com) and Calvin Presbyterian at [www.calvinpreschurch.org](http://www.calvinpreschurch.org). We hope that interested applicants will consider coming out to a service, 9:24am at 2501 Rudy Lane, Louisville KY, 40207 at some point in the spring and we look forward to working with Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in the coming months!