



Dear Brothers and sisters,

Thank you for your love, faithfulness and dedication to our church. As you may know, we are starting a significant journey in our life as a congregation. Our Admin. board voted just last month to accept the invitation by our California-Pacific to evaluate – learn – renew – and grow! All this will be accomplished with a yearlong commitment to **“Readiness 360+”**

As an important leader and participant in our congregation, your input is crucial for our success.

FIRST: Begin reading: **“DiscipleShift”** by Jim Putman et. Al. (also available as a Kindle for \$8)

SECOND: Please attend our challenging workshops beginning **Sat., Jan. 21, 2017, 8:30 am – 4 pm.**
(two of the next five meetings will be held here at our church.)

At those workshops, we’ll receive in-depth insight into what it takes to have a vital, growing congregation that develops leadership for the next 20-30 years

THIRD: Prayerfully attend five Saturday meetings in 2017 and reading five books on:

- **1/21/17 @ _____ *Spiritual Intensity*** – Cultivating a deep love for the God we meet in Jesus Christ and encouraging a spiritual fire to burn within our hearts and souls.
- **4/29/17 @ _____ *Missional Alignment*** – Are we making the right decisions according to our biblical vision and mission? It is critical that a church’s plans, major initiatives, and activities stem clearly from a biblical vision/mission and drive for fruitfulness instead of from habit.
- **6/10/17 @ Lancaster *Dynamic Relationships*** – How well do we live our God’s unconditional love with each other and with those around us. Healthy congregations work to have the loving relationships with others.
- **9/23/17 @ _____ *Cultural Openness*** – How well do we reach across cultural boundaries to share the Christian good news with diverse people, and especially with those who live around us?
- **11/18/17 @ Lancaster *Concluding Workshop / Planning for the future***



The information we learn, the relationships with we develop and the prayers that we pray will all set the stage for the next 5-10 years of our congregational life.

You have a crucial and important role to play in that future.

Will you please take these important steps? (You can do all or just one or two.)

- 1) Begin Reading: **DiscipleShift** Up through Chap 2 by Sunday, Oct. 23
- 2) Attend the **workshops listed above** (Next one on **Sat., Jan. 21, 2017 8:30 pm – 4 pm**)
- 3) Actively join the year long journey of reading, praying and discerning together what is God’s will for us by attending our **Sunday Afternoon Prayer time: 2 pm** (and/or begin a daily prayer for our congregation.)

We guarantee you that this will be a unique and powerful part of your spiritual journey with Christ. Please note that you are also welcome to bring other family members such as youth, young adult and adult family members with you. (Child Care can be arranged if you R.S.V.P. soon!)

Please let us know of your willingness to pray, discern and participate in this great effort to prepare our church for the future. It’s an opportunity we cannot afford to miss! I know you will be glad you did!

North Dist SOUTH GROUP	Pastor
1. Van Nuys UMC	Seung Il Whang
2. Scott UMC: Pasadena	James Stevenson
3. Santa Clarita UMC	Melissa MacKinnon
4. Lancaster UMC	Terry Van Hook
5. Ridgecrest UMC	Wesley Elmore
6. Ontario First UMC	Blair Trygstad

North District: SOUTH GP Dates	Location	Topic/Speaker
10/1/16	Lancaster UMC	Introduction – Rev. Nicole Reilley
1/21/17		Spiritual Intensity Rev. Phil Maynard
4/29/17		Missional Alignment Rev. Craig Brown
6/10/17		Dynamic Relationships Rev. Paul Nixon
9/23/17		Cultural Openness 4 speakers
11/18/17	Lancaster UMC	What's Next – Planning forward Rev. Nicole Reilley

BOOKS TO STUDY

To Be Read by	Book Title
January Meeting	"DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples" by Jim Putman
March Meeting	"Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church" by Reggie McNeal
June Meeting	"Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships" by Bob Farr
September Meeting	"The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb" by Eric Law OR "Consuming Jesus: Beyond Race and Class Divisions in a Consumer Church" by Paul Louis Metzger
November Meeting	Seven Practices of Effective Ministry by Andy Stanley

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