

New Day 2016

Congregational Transformation in CCIW
A Two-Year Process of Being Faithful to God
(Getting ready in 2015)



New Day 2016 is an offering of the Regional church to help your congregation create an atmosphere open to God's transforming power. Together we pray, we listen to God, we take risks, we experiment with new ideas, we let go, and we focus on ministry opportunities outside and inside the congregation.

Would it be helpful to join with other congregations like yours? We are not alone. We have many partners in this life of faith and they have wisdom and resources to help us. They can encourage us and we can also help them.

It's spiritual transformation - We are on a spiritual journey and God is guiding our path. Our current reality might be marked with decline and frustration. If we will invest in deepening our relationship with God and one another, new perspectives will be opened. A vision of God's next chapter for us can be revealed. We have the courage to try something new and learn from our experiences. New opportunities and new ideas come to us. New energy feeds the life of the community and the church. We see what can emerge in our ministry context and who we are created to be.

It's not about a dying church; it's about new life and a commitment to a change for the better. For many of us, the old way is not working. We have lower worship attendance and lower giving in the offering plate. It's time for something better! When we tap into God's loving power, things change. Lives change. Commitments change. Churches change. Again, it's change in a positive direction – one we can handle, one that can bring us joy.

New Day is a new approach to congregational transformation. Driven by deeper spirituality, enriching partnership and ongoing support, churches find their path to a faithful future. This is not a cookie cutter program. Each congregation has its own unique experience of transformation. There will be training retreats for church leaders to get the process started, monthly coaching calls for the ministers, and follow-up events to hear about progress and offer more resources. Congregations with similar interests and similar callings can work together. The Regional church is making a huge commitment to help with congregational transformation.

What outcomes do we expect?

1. We'll witness to our spiritual transformation – the difference that God makes in our members, friends and community. We tap into God's power to fuel our ministry.
2. We'll be clear about our purpose as a church, clearer about what God wants us to do, clearer about our gifts, clear that God provides all we need.
3. Our focus has changed – it's about hospitality – people experience God's love in new ways through our church. Hospitality is intentional and integrated into all areas of church life.

(continued)

4. What we measure for success – we used to count worship attendance and income versus expenses. Now we count stories – tell me a story of a life that’s been changed because of your church and its ministry. And another story, and another story.

Let’s count adult baptisms – stories of people drawn in, mentored in their faith, sent out for ministry. God has blessed them so they can bless others.

Transforming leaders lead transforming churches

We must be willing to change on an individual level to be transformed as leaders

1. Spiritually – deeper connection with God, trust, Sabbath, regular spiritual disciples, awareness of spiritual gifts, listening to God, willing to risk
2. Emotionally – open, joyful, optimistic, awareness of what challenges us, what lifts us
3. Socially/relationally – inclusive, outgoing, welcoming – hospitality that is intentional & integrated
4. Physically – healthy, disciplined, movement/exercise, nutrition, rest
5. Intellectually – always learning, wise, clear, aware of the risks, strategic

If a leader is transforming in these ways, what are the possibilities for the church? We can tap into the power of God’s vision, God’s gifts, the Holy Spirit and sky’s the limit. We are able to change – bit by bit or in larger shifts. We inspire others to join in the church’s mission – more resources for mission, more people in touch with God’s gifts given through them.

What will it cost? The Regional church is willing to cover the costs of programming and leadership for the training retreats and other meetings for New Day 2016 – keynote speakers, trainers, resources, staff, etc. We ask the congregations to pay for their room and board for the events and for the monthly conversations with their transformation coach.

Ready to join in this partnership? But wait, there’s more!

Getting Ready in 2015

We are gathering partners in 2015 and talking about transformation as a spiritual experience.

What does each congregation need to do in preparation? We will offer resources to help congregations connect with God’s call for the church. We also will engage congregational leaders in a discussion of “readiness.” We’ll explore the imagination and the courage God gives us. Does our congregation have the willingness and ability to embark on an adventure in transformation?

This is an outline of the New Day 2016 experience, a two-year process -

Year 1 - 2016

1. Gathering (in the spring) for training and retreat - for congregational leaders (Saturday-Sunday) Pastors would stay an extra day.
 - Being about God’s Mission. Discerning together. Story sharing

- A New Day – our next chapter as a congregation, faithful and obedient to God
 - How will I change? Congregations need leaders who are being transformed
 - Change in the congregation – moving forward together – praying, listening, responding
 - Enter into covenant and write a learning contract for the year
 - Assignment: Congregational/Community self-study – Field trips, engage the community and congregation in conversation
2. Another Gathering (in the summer) for congregational leaders (Saturday-Sunday) Pastors would stay an extra day.
- Vocation - where our gifts meet the world's needs. God's calling for us.
 - Planning for ministry: What risk will you take for the sake of your community?
What are you willing to stop doing so that transformation can take place?
Form follows function. How will you restructure to fulfill God's calling?
Try something/run an experiment. Learn. Repeat.
 - Pastors/congregations secure a coach with a focus on transformation
 - Pastor Groups (3-4 times a year) based on Circle of Trust/Geography of Grace – a model of spiritual discernment.

Year 2 - 2017

1. Two Reunions for congregational leaders - Check in, report out, what's going well, what resources are helpful, what resources are needed?
2. Quarterly Pastor Groups – peer support and discernment – Geography of Grace
3. Monthly coaching calls
4. Staying connected, staying on course, involving more leaders in transformation

We're working on –

- Spiritual development of the congregation
- Readiness assessment
- Schedule – training retreats in 2016
- Resources – leaders, coaches, bibliography
- Covenants with congregations



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Space is limited – inquire today.