

MISSIONAL CHURCH CONSULTATION INITIATIVE

Pastors' Training Session Debrief – January 23, 2016

Met Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Pastor Jeff at Conference Office, Pastor Becky (and 3 other pastors via Skype)

Accountability

- Shared a 12-month strategy for *Growing Generous Givers* initiative (see back).

New Material

- Discussed some refinements to the *New Consecration Sunday* stewardship campaign, including *Breakthrough Prayer*.

Assignments

- Implement the *Growing Generous Givers* strategy.
- Press on with the *Congregational Self-Study*.
 - This includes the section that our leaders discuss the findings and answer additional questions to be included in the *Self-Study*.
- Continue implementing *Breakthrough Prayer*.
- Invite at least 5 key leaders to *Door-to-Core* training with Brad Aycok, West Ohio Conference Director of New Church Starts: Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Conference Center in Worthington. This event covers engaging people in discipleship from the time they first come in contact with our church through a process of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Project and submit possible dates for:
 - *Resource Refocus* event – Need 2-hour block when we can gather at least 35 church people (70-90 preferred), including paid and unpaid staff, leaders and others. This will be led by a facilitator from MCCI. Contact Joseph Bishman with possible dates.
 - *Consultation Weekend* – It's not too early to begin thinking about a date for the weekend. Advance notice makes it easier to coordinate team schedules. Weekend is Friday through Sunday, with team onsite for meetings, interviews, focus groups and worship. *Self-Study* must be submitted at least one month in advance.

GROWING GENEROUS GIVERS STRATEGY 2016

Growing Generous Givers involves the church in equipping our people to “earn all they can, save all they can, and give all they can” (after the strategy John Wesley taught the early Methodists).

Quarter 1 (January-March)

- **Sermon series:** *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity* – Provides a spiritual basis, as well as practical suggestions, relating to aspects of our financial lives. Seeks to create an opportunity for those attending worship to wrestle with God and to examine their own lives, while also offering some simple tools. Introduce the equipping opportunity.
- **Equipping:** *Freed-Up Financial Living* class – 7-week, DVD-based course that teaches Biblical principles relating to finances and practical skills as participants create a spending plan they can actually implement. Course talks about earning, saving, giving, debt, and spending. Communicates that this church wants to help people with their lives. Facilitated by Caleb Weber. Pastor Jeff is participating to show support for this class.

Quarter 2 (April-June)

- **Equipping:** Pending outcome of first quarter class, offer *Freed-Up Financial Living* again on a broader basis. Pastor Becky is tentatively planning to participate.
- **Equipping:** *Raising Financially Freed-Up Kids* is a 2-hour course that helps parents and grandparents know how to teach Biblical financial principles and practical skills to their children and grandchildren. This provides the church the opportunity to equip the next generation.
- **Appreciation:** Sponsor *Kingdom Investor* events to thank people for their giving, help them understand how their giving affects lives, *without asking for money*.

Quarter 3 (July-September)

- **Equipping:** Repeat *Freed-Up Financial Living* again, offering it more broadly. (Aug.-Sept.)
- **Attendance Ramp-Up:** Rather than surrendering to the culture, let’s give people a reason to come to church in the summer. Focus on 3 or 4 weeks with sermons, drama, etc. and promote. (This quarter is when most church shoppers are visiting and considering where they will attend.)
- **Back-to-Church Sunday:** Work to build momentum for Back-to-Church Sunday in September.

Quarter 4 (October-December)

- **Stewardship Campaign:** Use *New Consecration Sunday* model with *Breakthrough Prayer* and other components.
- **Equipping:** During the stewardship campaign, offer *Freed-Up from Debt* and *Freed-Up in Later Life* courses (both 2-hour classes) and perhaps a workshop on estate planning or legacy giving.
- **Appreciation:** Sponsor *Kingdom Investor* events to thank people for their giving.
- **Christmas Challenge:** During Advent/Christmas seasons, challenge the congregation to give to missions in honor of Jesus’ birth.
- **Yearend Giving Opportunities:** Be prepared to discuss giving opportunities through the church with donors seeking to give.

Throughout the Year

- Continue sending quarterly giving statements with briefer cover letters that share a story of something that has happened.
- Work on plan to promote Wesley Endowment.
- Prepare list of possible projects for Memorial gifts.