

**SESSION**  
**NEW BEGINNINGS MISSION REDEFINITION**  
**STATUS REPORT**  
**January 4, 2016**

Much progress has been made since our last written report in November 2015. Most of you have seen the progress flowcharts posted around the campus and attached to the monthly newsletters and Mid-Week Matters. These charts are informative because they show in graphic detail where we've been, where we are and where we are going. Take a look when you can.

The big news is that we have completed our Mission Statement with the help and hard work of the session and about 40 members of the congregation who attended a workshop.

**“REALIZING GOD’S LOVE BY SERVING AND EMPOWERING”**

It seems so simple but it is built upon over a year of study starting with the New Beginnings study groups, including a preference survey of the entire congregation and finished with three session workshops and one congregational workshop. Thanks to so many who have put in so much work to get this done. The mission statement is purposely not a complete sentence. That is because it is designed to be applied in many ways and describe many things. For those of you who crave correct grammar and more description, please feel free to add things on both ends. It will help you to **“realize”** how powerful this statement really is. Think about the word realize for a minute. What does it mean to you? How do you think it applies in our mission?

When I say I have just “realized” something what am I saying? That a vague concept or an idea I might have been struggling with has suddenly been made clear. Or that something I hadn't even thought of before has suddenly become a new idea in my mind. Or that I have just made a connection between two objects, ideas, or people that I never before knew existed. The primary definition of the word is to make something “real” or appear to be “real” that didn't appear to be so before.

So think of what “Realizing God's Love” means. I mean what does it really mean? It's a wonderful concept because it can be thought of in so many ways. We make God's love actual or real to someone else when we perform an act of love in God's name, when we become God's helpers on earth.

We ourselves realize God's love when we perform a special act of kindness for someone. Sometimes we call it a warm fuzzy feeling but it is just us “realizing” God's love in ourselves. So it works both ways... cool huh! I realize God's love myself when I do something that helps another person realize God's love. If you think about it enough it's really mind boggling. So much power in just one word.

So back to the grammar lesson for a minute. Feel free to make complete statements to help you understand this concept.

Northminster Presbyterian Church is realizing God's love by serving and empowering people.

We are realizing God's love by serving and empowering those in need in the Pomona Valley.

Our mission is to be realizing God's love by serving and empowering others through our work with IVHP.

Have some fun with it. Apply it to your personal favorite and make it into a complete sentence. Maybe we ought to have a contest. But, isn't it cool how universal and flexible it is when we just use the phrase by itself in its simplest form.

Wayne Hunter – Clerk of Session