

# SESSION NEW BEGINNINGS MISSION REDEFINITION STATUS REPORT

**November 4, 2015**

Your session has continued its work this past month in developing a comprehensive plan for our mission for the next five to seven years. We had originally planned to publish an outline to the congregation by now (see status report October 4, 2015) but find that the important foundational aspects for mission redefinition are proving to be more time consuming than anticipated.

**Workshop Sunday December 6, 2015-** Several members of the congregation have indicated that they would like to participate in the process of mission redefinition. We will be holding a two hour workshop on developing a mission statement following worship on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will provide a light lunch and urge interested persons to sign up and attend. Your input to this process is very important and we need participation from a representative cross section of our regular congregants (young, old, new, member, non-member, ethnic diversity). We are hoping to have at least 30 people participate.

**Stebe Family Farewell Dinner Saturday January 2, 2016** – We need a few volunteers to serve on a committee to plan the event scheduled for 5:00 PM. If you want to help please call or e-mail the church office or Wayne Hunter.

## **Frequently asked Questions:**

**Are we planning a “restart” with staff changes?** – A complete restart as defined in the New Beginnings process was never anticipated. This was communicated to the congregation in the May 3, 2015 report. While staffing decisions are always subject to the results of our stewardship campaign and budgeting decisions, we do not plan to make any staffing changes at this time.

**Will there be other leadership changes?** – Filling the vacancies on session and deacons continues to be a struggle. The nominating committee would really appreciate your help and suggestions. We do not anticipate any changes for either organization this year other than the normal annual changes.

**What will Paul Knopf’s role be?** - Northminster has been blessed with the presence of Paul Knopf and his family for a few years as he has been sponsored by our congregation while under care of the Presbytery Committee for the Preparation for Ministry. At the same time he has been employed by us as our Youth director where he has served us well in nurturing many of our youth through the communicant process and acting as their mentor during the teen years. Our congregation has come to love Paul and his family as they have been active workers and participants. We have watched Paul grow in his faith and confidence as he has stood before us and preached.

Paul has now completed his studies and has been certified as ready to receive a call. **Our duty now is to encourage Paul to seek God’s will for the next phase of his life and career.** We have the responsibility as his sponsoring church and people who love him to allow him to explore his call freely, and not allow our needs to constrain him as he looks for his new ministry.

We plan to continue Paul in his position as Northminster’s Youth Director during the next year. At the same time we offer our advice and consent for him to be exploring new possible opportunities. We want him to take his time to find what is right for him and his family while having the security of his position here at Northminster.

As his sponsoring congregation, we encourage each of you to give Paul, support and reassurance as he explores possibilities. As his employer, we hope Paul will remain with us as long as possible and grow with us as we transition to our New Beginnings. Either way he has our full support and our prayers.