

Hi CAC Family!

Just when you thought you got caught up on the Elder Newsletter 9.X series, the crazy elders send out a 10.1 edition! Well, we've got to keep you on your toes!

We also uniformly feel it is important to keep the congregation in the loop because it allows you to pray for the entire process and it helps you to understand when certain decisions are made. We believe when the church is informed, there is greater support and a greater sense of EXPECTANCY!

More importantly, it allows all of us to see where we need to submit our hearts to God to help us to do things differently as the Holy Spirit leads and guides us. We believe there is much strength in collective prayers, collective wisdom and collective change in perspectives, to help us respond to God's prompting in areas that we have not scored well in. We don't want to flog ourselves but we want God to change us so that we can have a greater impact on our community.

I hope you share these goals and dreams with us. Let one of the elders or pastoral staff know if you have a big AMEN to this. You can talk to us, text us, email us or send us a letter. We will share it with each other. It encourages us to hear from any of you!

This session was called the COMPASS SESSION. As you recall from prior newsletter:

What aligns us? First understand what we mean by Leadership, Mission and Discipleship so we can have a common understanding of these terms. Determining the cardinal directions in Leadership, Mission and Discipleship.

During this session we did 3 things:

- (1) We looked at one of the essential elements that we scored high in (peak), Worship Gathering. We discussed why we thought we scored well in this area.
- (2) We looked at one of the essential elements that we scored low in (valley), Loving Community. We discussed why we thought we scored low in this element.
- (3) We looked at the three cardinal directions (Leadership, Discipleship and Mission) and tried to define what these terms mean when we use it at Canby Alliance Church.

WORSHIP GATHERING: A PEAK OR STRENGTH

- Active participation
- High volunteer effort and contributions and capacity
- Awareness/sensing of the Holy Spirit
- The worship service is covered in prayers
- Enthusiastic leadership

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- Keep the main thing, the main thing
 - Leaders really want to be there
 - Relationship within the body (deep)
 - Relevant songs
 - Sense of expectancy about encountering God
 - Deep community relationships
 - Embracing the church of Canby

LOVING COMMUNITY: A VALLEY OR CHALLENGE

- Too ingrown, cliques
- Not intentionally embracing/reaching out to those outside of the church
- No next steps for people to know how to connect more deeply
- Protective of those we have previous connections with already but not of the new people trying to connect
- Too comfortable with being comfortable
- We are not good at being and developing deeper friendships
- We are too busy as individuals
- We are too busy individually to listen to God
- Socioeconomic status of the church is different from the majority of the community

LEADERSHIP

- First follower of God and scripture—primary focus
- Alignment with C&MA statement of faith
- Servant leadership
- Vision and passion (energy)
- I Timothy 3/Titus
- Courageous especially in our culture
- Spirit of unity
- Wisdom
- Lover of all people
- Relational
- Compassionate
- Not narcissistic
- Willing to be uncomfortable
- Willing to be vulnerable
- A good example
- Honest
- Teachable, can take corrections
- Non static, continually growing
- Spirit sensitive, manifest fruit of the Spirit
- Collaborative

DISCIPLESHIP

- Mutual: Romans 1:11-12, mutually encouraging
- Comes alongside
- Spurs each other on
- Multiplication/replicating, anti-black hole

- Edifying relationships, I Corinthians 12, 14
- Selfless and sacrificing
- Continues the work of the Christ/church
- Conformed to Christ
- Openness to the person and to God
- Vulnerable
- Open-handedness
- Cost of discipleship, you have to choose
- To Jesus and not to us or our vision

MISSION

- Church's mission has to fit in God's mission
- Want to make Jesus known and make known his love
- Originates in love
- Determination/focus, single mindedness
- Earning the right to be heard
- Mission is often uncomfortable
- Learning to be part of a new culture
- Matthew 28, go and make disciples
- II Peter 3:9
- Matthew 16: Offensive or defensive
- All who God would call
- 24/7 mission and not just on Sunday

Some of this may seem clunky but later on, it should all come together so don't be discouraged if it feels somewhat disjointed.

We had homework after this session:

- (1) From the qualities or characteristics we defined under these three cardinal directions, we need to come up with a collaborative summary definition for Leadership, Discipleship and Mission. In other words, to CAC, leadership is,...; Discipleship is,...; Mission is,....
- (2) We have to talk to 3 people who we are not connected with and ask them what they think the greatest need is in our community.

Here are the remaining sessions:

November 7 – Impact Session part 1–What is our “Critical Gospel Impact”?

Understanding how this intersects in the context which God has placed us.

December 5 – Impact Session part 2

January 9 – Story Session–what do we need to know about our church so we can repeat what is good, redeem what needs to be accounted for and restore wounds we have inflicted or received.

January 30 – Map Session–How will we know we are on track? MAP provides a framework to ensure we stay on track with our cardinal directions, CGI and what our story revealed to us.

March 5 – Remember Session–what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?

Hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the nice fall sunny days! Often, I find myself wishing that NW winters could be like our beautiful sunny Fall days!

Once again, I want to remind you of who is on the PEAK Team: Dennis Beatty, Brent Beck, Sandi Beck, Nick Charbonnier, Marilyn Greenleaf, Rachel Keen, Lindsey Lessley, Adam Mower, Marlin Myers, Nancy Pickett, Jeff Reister, Jenny Schuening, Joshua Stager, Jim Trigg, Mel Yamase. If at any time something comes to you as you read these newsletters, please feel free to reach out to any of the PEAK Team and let them know what you are thinking.

Your faithful servants,

Mel Yamase

Cell 503-201-3268
Home 503-266-4441
moongoonspoon@gmail.com

Jim Trigg

503-708-1767
jimbustrigg@yahoo.com

Marlin Myers

503-545-6014
marstarfar@yahoo.com

Jeff Reister

503-522-1592
jareister@icloud.com