

INTERIM UPDATE
December 15, 2015

Where to in 2016?

Thank you for the privilege of serving with you to prepare Sierra Bible Church for the future God has planned. A transition is a critical time in the life of a church. Just as baking a cake requires specific ingredients and a deliberate procedure, so helping a church move from its current reality to a future of fruitfulness requires a careful process. You have already been involved in IPM's five steps:

1. CONNECT WITH PEOPLE: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
2. ASSESS CHURCH HEALTH: DISCOVERING REALITY
3. FACILITATE ACTION: ADDRESSING NEEDS
4. LEAD STRATEGIC PLANNING: DISCERNING DIRECTION
5. COACH PASTOR SEARCH: ASSISTING THE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

Our plan is to adapt these steps to fit your situation.

1. Connect with People: This is an essential first step for us to get know you and the key issues.

4. Lead Strategic Planning: We intend to build on the work that has already been done in steps 2-3 and focus on unfinished tasks. In late January I will lead a Journey Wall workshop with leaders and involved members of the church. Then, working with the Transition Team through the winter and early spring, we will seek to clarify the church's values, mission, transitional vision, and action plan. This process will help answer four questions:

1. Who are we as a church?
2. What do we need to strengthen?
3. Where does God want us go?
4. Who do we need to lead us there?

These questions help in the development of a clear pastoral profile.

5. Coach the Pastoral Search: By late spring we plan to select and train a search team, and coach their search for the pastoral candidate they will eventually present to the congregation.

You are a vital part of the interim process, and each of these steps involves your involvement, prayer, and input. Many of you have already expressed your commitment to helping Sierra Bible Church offer a vital ministry in the Reno-Sparks area. We realize that you have been in this process for over a year. This is a time to act, and also a time to wait with prayer and patience.

As Scripture reminds us,

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4 (NASB95)

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Hebrews 10:36 (NASB95)

Yours in Christ,
Dr. Mahlon Friesen
Interim Pastor