

Hello Skyland Church friends,

As you know, the church council has been looking into the reVision program from the Center for Progressive Renewal, which was suggested by our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Daniel Ross Jones. He preached and met with the council last spring on the subject of congregational vitality.

The more we have learned about the program, the more exciting it seems! Now the council would like to share more details with the church membership to explore whether we, as a congregation, would like to move forward with the program. The attached document provides a detailed overview.

We will also be holding two informational meetings after church on October 29 and November 5 to discuss the program and answer questions. Hopefully, anyone who is interested can attend at least one of these meetings. If there is enough support for the program, we will look at scheduling to decide when would be a good time for us to begin.

Cheers,  
Deana Arnold  
Moderator

### **ReVision at Skyland Church?**

#### **What?**

ReVision is a program offered by the Center for Progressive Renewal (CPR), a church vitality organization affiliated with the United Church of Christ, to churches who seek to plan and implement a more vibrant future. In this program, churches work with curriculum and a coach from CPR to deepen their connection to God, to each other and to the wider community and world. Churches that follow the program often experience growth in numbers as a by-product of their enthusiasm and focused engagement with the community. The curriculum is very flexible, typically lasting 12-18 months and includes 22 coaching sessions. There are many resources online that cover each phase of the program to supplement coaching sessions.

#### **Why?**

Two good whys: 1. From time to time every group needs to shake things up a little to stay alive and relevant. We could use a little shake up to give us fresh insights and energy as we look to the future. 2. We are gradually becoming an older and smaller church. This may be a way to reverse that trend.

#### **When?**

If the congregation becomes enthusiastic about the program and wants to proceed, there will be training for the small group leaders and Stephen as early as December and the first phase could begin in January or early in the new year. However the decision will have to be made by the whole congregation and when we start the program is very flexible.

#### **How?**

If we decide to go forward with reVision, we will enter into a contractual arrangement with CPR. We will pay them \$5000. which may be paid by installments over a year. Up to half of the cost of reVision may be offset by a new program of grants from the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC to be awarded in January and July 2018.

#### **More what...**

The first phase lasts about 3-4 months and involves small group discussions in groups of 5-10 people. Groups can include church members and other community members who are not church members. Each small group meeting typically runs 1.5-2 hours for 7 meetings so there's a maximum 14 hour commitment for the small group participants. The curriculum includes devotions, reading and discussing *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass, and developing "initiatives" together.

A "Convergence Summit" follows the series of small group meetings in which everyone meets to discuss the outcomes from the small groups and determines which initiatives to pursue going forward. After the Convergence Summit, "Proposal Teams" work out the specifics of the initiatives chosen by the congregation. These teams are different from the initial small groups. At a subsequent "Action Summit," the Proposal Teams present the fully detailed plans for potential new initiatives to the congregation, including implementation timelines and sustainability projections. The church decides whether to pursue one or more of the initiatives, and proceeds to an implementation phase, which can also be coached by CPR. Some churches have selected multiple initiatives and implemented all of them.

Here are links for two videos that provide additional information about the reVision program: Reverend Cameron Trimble of CPR speaks about the "best years of your church are ahead of you." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM-TISQHkPs>  
Short video description of reVision. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX\\_mLpJpK-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX_mLpJpK-w)