



COME AND SEE

New Beginnings Assessment Service is Returning to Minnesota!

October 31, 2015

This October we will once again offer the New Beginnings Assessment service to congregations in Minnesota! The service specializes in helping congregations make bold decisions about their future. New Beginnings assesses the strengths and challenges for congregations as they seek to engage in significant ministry in their communities. The assessment service, along with follow-up strategic interpretation with congregational leaders, enables congregations who have experienced decline to envision a new path for their future. The assessment and follow-up training intend to help congregations gain a realistic picture of their resources for ministry, their demographic strengths, their potential for change, and their potential for vital ministry in order to put them on the road to sustainable Christian witness and action in their communities. The New Beginning Assessment Service seeks answers to the question, “What is God calling your congregation to do and to be in this time and in this place?”

While originally designed for churches in decline, this process can also be helpful to congregations that are not necessarily in numerical decline but are looking for new energy, direction and focus.

If your church answers “yes” to three or more of the following, it may be time for a New Beginning:

- Less than 70 in worship, or more than 70 in worship but significant decline for a decade
- Wrestling with future vision for the church
- Significant building issues
- Aging membership or a changing neighborhood
- Trouble paying bills and/or paying off a loan
- Currently in interim time of transition

With New Beginnings, your congregation will:

- Receive a comprehensive report of strengths and challenges, as well as a realistic picture of possible future directions.
- Be trained in a discernment process to follow God’s lead in choosing a new direction.
- Discover available ministry opportunities in the community.
- Learn how to discuss and implement change in a healthy, open manner.
- Receive additional leadership training on leading through change.
- Set a course for future strategic and visionary ministry planning.

The **Come and See** Event will be held **Saturday October 31st**. The regional locations are as follows:

9:00 am at Sandstone United Church of Christ. Doors open at 8.30

210 Commercial Avenue N, Sandstone

3:00 pm at First Congregational UCC – Doors open at 2.30

1910 3rd Avenue NW, Austin

These **free** two-hour **Come and See** Events are designed to inform congregations about the process and schedule for the New Beginnings Assessment Program.

Congregations are encouraged to bring pastors and teams of 5-10 leaders to the Come and See Events.

For questions or to register for this event please contact Rev. Steve Boorsma at the Conference office at: steveb@uccmn.org or call 612-230-3367

