

reVision for Skyland Church

By Rev. Daniel Ross-Jones

reVision is a program that seeks to renew and strengthen churches, and support them as they participate in bringing about a more **just** and **generous** world. The reVision program aims to help Skyland Church draw a clear map to God's future for it through:

- Small group work
- Daily devotions
- "Summit" meeting points
- Online training resources
- Yearlong coaching and partnership with the Associate Conference Minister

reVision strives to deepen Skyland Church's faith, and its relationships to each other and to the broader community, and will involve the whole congregation. An intentional period beginning with **small groups** of 10 or fewer people meeting together seven times over a period of 90 days. During that time, group members explore **spiritual practices**, read a **book in common** (*Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass), and engage in **important conversations** with each other:

- Getting to know one another
- Discerning our gifts
- Identifying our neighbors
- Understanding our community
- Listening to God's call
- Letting go of what needs to be left behind

After the first 90 days, the congregation comes together for the **Convergence Summit**, bringing together the interests and energy from the small groups. This is a time to identify the gifts and passions of the congregation and identify **intersections** between those and the wider community. Asking yourself, "**What does this inspire us to do?**" is the main question of the Convergence Summit, which launches a period of planning new initiatives and creating proposals for action.

People gathering around what interests them most is the movement out of the Convergence Summit, leading to another 60 day period of intentional work creating implementation plans for each of these new ideas. This leads to the **Action Summit**, and the congregation together decides on which new initiatives move forward and which ones get put on hold for the time being. Then, the **implementation phase** continues as the congregation moves into its new-and-updated vision.

Frequently Anticipated Questions

Q: How is reVision different from other programs?

A: The Center for Progressive Renewal created reVision from a skilled and diverse set of practitioners, theorists, and experts. These included local church pastors, certificated human development professionals, organizational design academics, and other specialized individuals skilled in social development in both secular and sacred settings. reVision 'goes further' than some other programs in its unique balance of spiritual formation, congregational empowerment, and ongoing external coaching support across a period of one year. The Northern California Nevada Conference has

purchased a bulk set of site licenses for reVision in local settings, allowing us to leverage your OCWM funds to offer this outstanding suite of resources and staff support at a lower fee than reVision on its own.

Q: Who is involved in reVision?

A: Everyone is involved, but to different degrees. A leadership team, including your pastor and key lay leaders, serve to 'keep the ball rolling' in the program. These individuals receive regular and ongoing coaching to be empowered in their critical leadership role. Small group leaders (two per group) are trained by the leadership team to facilitate deep, meaningful conversations that help to reveal the deepest passions and yearnings of the congregation - while there are only a few small group leaders, it is hoped that as many people as possible in the congregation will participate in a small group. Following the Convergence Summit, action teams will form around people's particular passions and yearnings and choose their own leaders, who will have an additional leadership role in this particular phase. Again, following the Action Summit, implementation teams (which may be pre-existing structural groups, if a change to the church structure is not proposed - such as deacons, Christian Education board members, etc.) will be formed as the next step of leadership to implement the new initiatives, programs, or other attributes of this newly-revised vision for the congregation. Coaching and training happens throughout the process, including a mix of leadership team empowerment, external facilitation, and a host of resources available from the Center for Progressive Renewal.

Q: Who or what is a coach/coaching?

A: Coaching is a form of development in which a skilled professional (the coach) supports an individual or group in achieving a particular goal by providing training and guidance. Coaching presumes that the answers to questions or the solutions to challenges we face are already within us, waiting to be identified, explored, and activated. It is a process of empowerment, not simply instruction; through powerful questions and identification of resources, your leadership team and other leaders throughout the reVision process will discover the energetic recharge that occurs through coaching! *All three Conference ministers have completed training and are in the process of securing their certification as professional coaches, allowing us to bring this opportunity to reVision and broader support of Conference ministries.*

Q: How long is reVision?

A: A lifetime! It is a turning toward the new vision God is casting in your community. Including time for planning and support during early implementation, the entire program lasts one year.