

**North Central California Presbytery
Congregational Vitality Engagement Process, Summer 2022**

Please invite your church leadership to respond to the following questions and submit your responses to the presbytery's Communications and Data Manager, Tayler Stone, cdmanager@nccpresby.org by **September 5th, 2022**. Thank you in advance for participating.

Please read Matthew 9:9-13 as you prepare to respond

After Jesus had called Matthew -a tax collector- to follow him, he entered his house, where he sat at table with other "tax collectors and sinners." And when he was criticized, Jesus felt the need to explain his calling to those who wanted to put him and his ministry in a box with predefined dimensions. He did not come to call those who consider themselves healthy, he says, but rather the "sick," who admit their need for wholeness and healing. Jesus does not abide by the rules of the religious institutions of the time, neither does he model his ministry after the existing structures. But rather, he taps into his own sense of calling, and follows the Spirit's direction to define the identity of his ministry, and to reach those he is called to gather, teach and heal. It is with this awareness that Jesus lives out his calling, and to this wakefulness that he calls those who come to be his disciples.

- I. We are called to self-awareness too. Our ministry to others follows our self- knowledge and is fueled by our connection to the source of our calling.

What are three words or short phrases that best describe your faith community's core values/sense of calling at this time in the life of your faith community? (Think post-pandemic, these might be different than what you used to have posted on your website's front page before 2020).

- II. The treasures we are entrusted to share cannot be dispensed without a map. With the loss of the physical church model as we know it, we are now in the digital and hybrid church era. The pandemic has left many of our faith communities in search of their new identity and vision.

In light of the values and commitments of your faith community, what are your primary population and ministry targets? Specifically, for whom and where are you trying or hoping to make a difference?

- III. Like Jesus called Matthew to join his movement, we are called to join God in the places God is already at work rather than try to bring God along with us. As we live our post-pandemic reality, so many of our compasses were lost and we have needed to redefine ourselves, faithfully discerning the areas that we need to let go of, and those we need to put more energy into.

With all that has taken place over the past few years, what areas of your faith community's ministry need to be reshaped, reconsidered or replaced, to continue to witness to God's calling?