

The Task of the Transformation Vision Team

As seen by the 5 yr trial plan approved by District Conference

The Transformation Vision Team serves as a district-wide spiritual discernment team, seeking the mind of Christ. Mindful of Christ's presence, they envision and embody a culture of transformation.

The Transformation Vision Team integrates the transformation movement as a primary focus of their work. The Transformation Vision Team takes on the functions of the current Transformation Steering Committee and as such is entrusted with casting the vision for the spiritual transformation of individuals and of congregational and district ministries and mission.

A Biblical Basis for a New Understanding of Structure in the Church

In the Church of the Brethren we have come to see that "Continuing the work of Jesus" is central (John 20:21). Christ continues to live through the Church. That reality requires us to think differently about the church and our membership. Biblically, when we respond to the call of Christ, we are gathered, not simply as a loose association of individuals, but as an organic body. Specifically, the New Testament calls it the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12-14). As we are drawn to Christ, God creates the new body of Christ as a new Spirit is breathed into that body (again, John 20:21, also Acts 2). That life and breath is the Spirit of God in Christ.

As American individualists, we may think differently. We may think that the church is created by our decision to join. That logic implies that the church is dependent upon us for its life. Biblically however, the Church is the body of Christ and our belonging to that body is by God's grace.

Since it is God who enlivens the body and our being a part of the body is a gift of grace, we already have a place and a function within that body. Our task as the church is to help persons discover and develop the ways in which God's grace shows itself as opportunities to function as a part of that body (1 Peter 4:10). The hope is that in helping each person discover and fully exercise the way in which God has graciously gifted them, we will "grow up in every way ... into Christ," (Ephesians 4:15) so that, as we mature congregationally as the body of Christ, we are increasingly able, together, to continue the work of Jesus.

Therefore, as we increasingly discover the ways in which God continues to transform us as congregations and individuals, we see the importance of structuring ourselves in a way that opens us more fully to how God works among us and through us. Passages such as 1 Corinthians 12 – 14, help us understand that the discernment of and the development of the gifts of grace among us is central to the full functioning and the transforming of the church as the body of Christ.

*Edited from: Proposed Structure Changes, revised November 7, 2009,
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