



News *from the New Church Movement*



He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13 (The Message)

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On the Move... Thanks to your Support!

The Maturing Season

August - September 2011

Dear Friend of Path 1,

My wife and I pray every day for God to bring Christian adults into the lives of our sons as examples, helpers, and guides for them. Recently, through our participation in an intentional community new church start and other life circumstances, we've found ourselves playing that role for several young people around us. We're surrounded by twenty-somethings and it's great!

Our current situation reminds me of the early days of our married life and the mature couples who helped us during those times. Dick and Liz Parks were about twenty years older than Kim and I. Dick was a second career pastor serving a church near the country church I was assigned to during seminary. Having no children of their own they readily opened their lives to us almost as surrogate parents (or as Dick liked to call himself, "Old Uncle Dick"). We lived about eight hours away from our extended families and, because of church responsibilities, rarely got to travel home for the holidays. We spent nearly every holiday with Dick and Liz. They counseled us, comforted us, challenged us, and entertained us with a variety of fun activities. Dick and Liz helped us through some major life transitions. How strange and yet wonderful it is now to be in a position to offer that same loving support and example to another generation.

Through my work with Path1, I see opportunities every day to share my church planting experience, helping planters through various seasons in the lives of their churches. Just two weeks ago, at our inaugural "Launchpad" training, I sat at the table with two young planters who were developing timelines for their work. From my personal experience and that of successful planters I know I was able to enter into their work, not by imposing my own ideas on them, but by asking them specific questions to guide them through some of the

Your apportionment giving helps fuel this movement and will allow staff to accomplish the following (and much more...) in the months to come:

Translating and editing new Spanish-language resources for church planting and coaching

Partnering with annual conferences for exploratory and discovery weeks and ongoing consultation throughout the U.S.

Preparing for the launch of new Lay Missionary Planting Network training in various locations

Participating in a staff strategic planning retreat and envisioning our shared work in the coming quadrennium

Participating in the Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute September 28-30

Coordinating upcoming events - Innovation Forum, Facilitator and Consultation training, NEJ Launchpad follow-up event in January, etc.

Working to enhance Path1's online presence and resources through development of online learning options

Working in partnership with racial/ethnic constituency groups to achieve planting goals

Think You'd be a Good New Church Coach?

We're looking for people like you!

Part coach, part consultant, part facilitator, Path1 coaches help planters, their teams and other key players set and achieve realistic benchmarks based on the vision for the project.

Path1 coaches are more than just trained - they bring a level of experience you can count on! They know the best practices of new church planting. They have experience dealing with the expectations of the "system."

Interested? [Check out the Path1](#)

decisions they were making.

In October, we have yet another opportunity to draw from the wisdom

and experience of others who've gone before, through our [Innovation Forum](#). Using the [Seven Seasons of Church Planting](#) as the framework, the event will enable planters and coaches to share insights and innovations through an open-space conversation.

What a wonderful blessing and awesome privilege it is to get to a certain stage in one's life journey (e.g. maturity) and be in a position to share some well-seasoned wisdom with those who are just starting out. Dick and Liz did that for Kim and me. Now it's our turn.

Who is God calling you to serve out of your own maturity? Come on, get in there! People are depending on you!

Moving Forward in Faith,

[Gary Shockley](#), Path1's Number One Fan



Maturing with Multiplication in Mind

As a congregation continues to develop and grow it becomes viable, sustainable and poised for multiplication. Growing people and developing healthy systems (leadership, financial, structure, and discipleship) will help the church grow spiritually, multiply its mission and ministries and prepare itself for inevitable leadership transitions.

Building a fruitful and multiplying church requires recognizing and honoring each person's God-given gifts, especially those that complement the planter's gifts. Recognizing your dependence on God, maintaining a consistent corporate life of spiritual discipline, and faithfully exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit mean you will take big risks for Christ and experience personal and corporate growth and maturity.

If your congregation is nearing the planting season of Maturing, consider this question: **What needs to happen next to grow people as servants and to implement systems for sustainability?**

Path1 Recommended Coaches can help your church address these and other questions. [Phil Maynard](#), [coaching network coordinator for Path1](#), will be glad to talk with you about how your new church can benefit from a coach.

[coach expectations](#) and plan to attend these two events:

1. [Facilitation Training for Path 1 Coaches](#): Guiding Stakeholder Expectations & Decisions with Christie Latona October 18, 2011 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Nashville, TN
2. [Consultation Training for New Church Coaches](#) with Bill Easum Wednesday, October 21 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Nashville, TN

These events precede the [Church Planting Innovation Forum, October 19-21](#). Register for all three and save some travel costs!

Still have questions about the Path1 Coaching Network? [Contact Phil Maynard](#) for assistance.

Other Upcoming Events

Hope to see you at some of these upcoming events:

September 22-23: [New Church Leadership Institute](#) - Charleston, WV

September 28-30: [Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institutue](#) - Leawood, KS

October 18: [Facilitation Training for Coaches](#) led by Christie Latona - Nashville, TN

October 19: [Consultation Training for Coaches - led by Bill Easum](#) - Nashville, TN

November 15-17: [New Church Leadership Institute](#) - Ellicott City, MD

November 29 - December 1: [New Church Leadership Institute](#) - Lakeland, FL (near Orlando)

From the UMC New Church Starts Blog:



Some Thoughts about Maturing

- [Easing on Down the Road](#)



Don't have a coach yet? See if one of our [Mentor Coaches](#) might be a good fit for you!

Thinking about becoming a Path1 Coach? See the related article at left and [register for the Facilitation and Consultation Training, October 18-19](#).

Innovation Forum 2011 - Register NOW!

Cost: \$196.81

Remember to [register for the 2011 Innovation Forum, October 19-21](#). The Innovation Forum in Nashville, Tennessee, will feature church planters, Path 1 New Church Strategists and Path 1 Mentor Coaches presenting some of the latest thinking and trends in church planting. Forum speakers include church planters from all over the U.S., in various seasons of new church development. The Forum will include an Open Space environment in which participants guide the ongoing dialogue and exploration of the topics of greatest interest and need. Questions? [Contact us!](#)



Innovation "Tweet-Up"



As we gear up for the Church Planting Innovation Forum, we thought it would be appropriate to get out the word in a new way during the first-ever Path1 Innovation "Tweet-Up." We invite you to Tweet your questions, new ideas, and nominations of new UMC faith communities that you think are innovatively reaching people for Christ. **Between Noon and 2:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, September 15**, we invite you to use the hashtag #Path1IF2011 in each of your tweets on that topic. Just retweet (RT) your favorite church planting innovation tweets with "#Path1IF2011" if you can't think of anything you want to share. We will feature the church with the most mentions in our October newsletter, as well as give **ONE FREE REGISTRATION** to that congregation. Let's celebrate what God is doing through our new church starts. Tweet it up!

[to Maturity](#) by Candace Lewis

- [Culture and Maturity](#) by Jim Ozier
- [Soul Food for a Growing Church](#) by Jacob Armstrong
- [Existing for Non-Members](#) by Doug Ruffle

To stay current with the UMC New Church Starts blog, subscribe to the RSS feed. Feel free to add your voice to the conversation by commenting on the posts, answering the bloggers' questions, or reviewing the books you've read. If you're interested in writing blogs for Path1, please contact [Emily Reece](#) or [Philip Brooks](#).



Have you found the Path1 movement on Twitter yet? If not, please use the links below to follow us:

- [Path1Tweets](#)
- [Ima Planter](#)
- [Gary Shockley](#)
- [Bener Agtarap](#)
- [Joanna Appel](#)
- [Candace Lewis](#)
- [Phil Maynard](#)
- [Emily Reece](#)
- [Sam Rodriguez](#)



Needs of a Maturing Congregation

Maturing congregations have moved beyond the launch of worship into the season in which people ask, "What next?" Ideally, people and churches mature together, deepening their relationship with Christ and their understanding of their personal and corporate calling. In this season, new churches put systems in place to help people identify and employ their spiritual gifts, grow in their service to others, and become poised for multiplying ministry within the congregation and out in the community. Consider how to incorporate these resources and tools into your church's culture as you plan how to help your people (and your new church) mature:



- [Spiritual Gifts Assessments](#) and [Classes](#)
- Temperament or [Spiritual Type](#) Assessments
- Written [Volunteer "Job Descriptions"](#) and Expectations
- [Ongoing Training](#) for Group and Ministry Team Leaders
- [Membership Expectations](#) and Classes
- Intentional Spiritual and Ministry [Apprenticeship](#)
- [Stewardship](#) and [Personal Finance](#) Education

As always, the Path1 | New Church Starts staff at GBOD stand ready to assist you with any of these tools, tips, and ideas. Call (877-899-2780, xt. 7139), [email](#) or connect with us on the [Path 1 Facebook](#) fan page (you'll want to "Like" this page to receive automatic newsfeeds to your Facebook page) or @Path1Tweets on [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,



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