



The Village Presbyterian Church

1300 Shermer Road, Northbrook, IL 60062-4577

Phone: 847-272-0900 Fax: 847-509-8872

www.tvpchurch.org

June 29, 2018

Disciples of the Village Presbyterian Church,

This is a rather lengthy article, but a necessary one; please give it your full attention.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the first three months of my time as your new Senior Pastor. My sense of call to the Village Church was driven by several factors including the wonderful PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee), the impact of the church in the community, and your willingness to step out in faith to join in God's mission in the world. At each step of getting to know you these first three months, I have experienced confirmation of this call and continued validation of your desire to shift a historic church toward a discipleship-focused missional church. The Village Church is on the move and I am more than thrilled to be the senior pastor of this incredible group of Christians.

One of the items that clarified my sense of call was the Mission Study. I was impressed with its thoroughness and theological rigor as it laid out the Village Church's motivation and desire to join God's mission in Northbrook and beyond. Carefully researched and put together by members of the church, the study identified several of the issues we face as we shift toward a disciple-focused missional church. The study captivated my imagination and gave me confidence that the Village Church was ready to begin the process of moving forward toward a new day in Christ. You should be commended for the work you did. It also became clear that the broad scope of the Mission Study begs us as a church to clarify and focus our thinking as we move forward. We need to narrow our vision so we can set clear goals and embrace new strategies and tactics in the process of transformation.

To help with the process of clarifying our focus, the Session decided to enlist Church Innovations, a consulting group, which excels in helping churches recalibrate and move toward a missional church. In preparation for the annual Session retreat in mid-September 2018, the Session is conducting numerous Cottage Meetings throughout the summer. Church Innovations designed these gatherings to help the Session listen and gather information for the retreat in September.

How can you help?

We need your participation in these meetings. We are at a pivotal time in the life of the Village Church and need your participation to fulfill what we believe the Holy Spirit is asking of us as a church.

There are several ways you can be involved with the Cottage Meetings. If you would like to participate, please be on the lookout for an opportunity to sign up on our website or contact John Hopkins at jhopkins@tvpchurch.org at the church phone number. 847-272-0900. The gatherings will begin Wednesday, July 18, and continue through the end of August.

My sense is that one day people will look back at this time as the moment when the Village Church began impacting Northbrook, Chicago and the world with the life of Jesus Christ in a dramatically new way. I am excited to share this with you.

Joyfully,

Pastor Spencer