



"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! they are ripe for harvest."

Friends of Nova Community Church,

We are excited to provide you with the first in a series of newsletters to inform and update you about **OPEN**, a journey that will challenge the hearts and actions of Nova's people. We believe this is a special time in the life of our church and know that **God has been leading us** to this place for the past several years. As the Great Commission states in Matthew 28:19-20, we are to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." We are ready to take action by **opening our eyes** to the needs around us and opening our hearts to what God has in store for each one of us, for our church, and for the South Bay community!



NOVA'S *vision*

Our Open campaign will focus on the scripture found in John 4:35b, which says, "...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." In response to God's command our vision is to revitalize our campus to show our welcoming nature and our commitment to gospel outreach in the South Bay and beyond. We plan to do this with the following project features: refurbished patio and playground areas, south-facing worship center entrance, welcoming south side of campus that draws visitors towards north side of campus, south parking lot improvements, food preparation station near the patio, increased storage, and restroom improvements (under consideration by the Board). We believe these additions will enhance our current ministries and allow us to extend our reach into the community with new ministries. We are extremely blessed with our amazing campus and beautiful lawn and are looking forward to exploring ways to bless our community with a renewed design.

HOW DID WE *get here?*

In the summer of 2015 our Nova staff recognized the significant need for a new children's playground, an upgrade that could provide modern equipment and a safer environment for our kids. We held a playground focus group to discuss ideas for a new outdoor area and held initial discussions with the Leadership Collective that addressed improving the playground, its safety and security. A few months later the Board decided to suspend plans at that time to pray and seek God's direction not just for a play area but for our entire church campus. Fast forward one year later, in August 2016 we engaged with a company called Visioneering Studios to conceptualize a redesign of the Nova campus. We conducted interactive workshops and vision sessions with Nova leaders. Visioneering created a concept which the Board presented to the Leadership Collective and the congregation in early 2017 for feedback, leading us to the point we are at now. In commitment to God's command, the Board continues its work to determine the scope and timeline of this project and has hired a consultant from Christian Investors Financial, Steve Johnson, to guide our three-year fundraising campaign.



A Message from PASTOR DEAN

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Nova Community Church we are enthusiastically anticipating the start of the Open Campaign! With the gifted campaign leadership team that God has put together, we are excited to see what's in store for us as we seek God's will together. Asking God to open the eyes of our hearts, Pastor Dean Mayeda



CAMPAIGN *spotlight*



ANDREW PITMAN Campaign Chair

A couple weeks back at Nova's Leadership Collective, Pastor Dean led Nova's servant leaders on a prayer walk around our campus. As I

walked towards the Nova sign on Emerald, the word "Community" seemed to pop off the sign. So I kept walking, across the street, and into the community that surrounds us. I walked by apartments and I prayed for the people that lived inside. I passed a restaurant and turned into an alley behind some homes, not knowing the people who live there, but praying whatever came to mind for the residents there. Next: a surgery recovery center, medical offices, and several senior living homes. I smiled a bit, remembering how as a little kid I would play guitar and sing for some of the folks that lived in those senior homes at Christmas time. As I completed my walk and returned to the Nova campus, it hit me. I have attended church in this same place for 34 years, but this community has no idea who I am.

Does our community know us? Does Nova make a difference to those around us? What if our community knew us better? What if Nova's presence made a difference in the lives of residents in the Milano Apartments or seniors in assisted living with

families far away? The heart of this "Open" journey wrestles with how we view ourselves and how we view those around us. Open calls us to value hospitality over security. It urges us to arrive a bit earlier, stay a bit longer, to invite and invest in those we know and those we have not yet met. Open will ask us to pray, to give, and to sacrifice – time, talent, resources. It will ask us to think not of ourselves first but of those that have yet to encounter Jesus. Our campus redesign will turn our focus from an inward view to an outward one. It will put doors on the south side of the worship center that face our community. A new playground, unique from any other in Torrance, will welcome kids and their parents. But Open is not "if you build it, they will come." Instead, "Open your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvest." Rather than waiting for the seeking to find us, we must pursue them. We must recommit ourselves to making disciples, of every nation, right here in the South Bay.

We pray our redesigned campus will be a tool in this harvest. Enhancing current ministries, enabling new ones, perhaps even inspiring you (yeah, you!) to create something new that would show grace and love. It is the hope of Nova's leadership that our new campus will reflect who we already are and continue to become – a family of believers who desperately desire to share something and Someone good with the community around us. So open your eyes...open your heart...and join us on this journey God has placed before us!

"The heart of this OPEN journey wrestles with how we view ourselves and how we view those around us."

PLEASE *pray for...*

all Nova hearts and ears to be open to receiving the vision set out by our leaders

our eyes to be open to the spiritual needs of our community and that we will be committed to meeting those needs as we revitalize our campus

direction and guidance for the leadership team

open hearts and minds as we begin this journey

Our prayer committee will be creating and distributing a daily devotional soon which will help guide us how to pray for our campaign specifically. Please commit yourself to prayer, asking God how you can be used in this journey and what God can do through you.

CAMPAIGN *leadership team*

Our Open campaign is no small feat but we believe God can raise the funds we need to support this vision. Dean Mayeda, Senior Pastor, and the Board have assembled a team to lead our Open campaign through its three-year lifespan. These campaign leaders and their teams will be working diligently in the coming months to bring us information on building decisions and progress, upcoming special events, prayer opportunities, and ways we can participate in this journey. As our timeline develops, the most important thing we can do now is pray.

Campaign Chair: Andrew Pitman

Communications Chair: Erika Gellner

Prayer Chair: Amy Martin

Events Co-Chairs: Rebecca Hester and Shannon Pitman

Advance Commitment Chair: Raul Chipeco

Stewardship Education Chair: Pastor Dave Martin

Board Liaison: John McGady

Project Liaison: Courtney Tibbils