



What's Up with NLI?

Since our Next Level Innovation (NLI) Report was approved on November 28, 2017, many teams have been actively working on various aspects of the report. (To see a full copy of the report, contact the church office.) Here is a summary of where we are today:

The Stewardship Committee is developing a year-round plan that includes small group studies (coming July 2019) and a workshop for individuals and families on managing finances. This year's campaign included a church-wide information session on church budgeting and regular communications with the congregation. **Scott McKenzie**, our capital campaign consultant, offered a finance training session.

The **Diverse Worship Team** visited other congregations, and, along with the **Worship Planning Team** has studied the demographics of our community. A sermon series (with Brené Brown) was created for July 2018 intended to be relevant for our neighbors, and worship planning seeks to incorporate a variety of sensory expressions and participation. They surveyed our congregation on current worship practices. They are looking into ways music at the 9:30 am worship service can enhance worship, and are making plans to live stream the 11 am worship. A new outdoor Christmas Eve service successfully reached new people using hospitality, sensory experiences and new music. A new worship planning document using One Note Online allows input from the planning team. The sound system has been improved by having a sound tech volunteer in the booth each week and with the purchase of 2 countryman mic headsets.

The **Focus Team** read together [Canoeing the Mountains](#) by Tod Bolinger. They have interviewed four area pastors on ways leadership can be more streamlined. A proposal for simplified church governance is before the church council.

The **Staff Parish Relations Committee Task Force** is reviewing current staffing and assessing staff focus on our church vision.

The **Nominating and Leadership Development Committee** has developed a Ministry Reflection Report for leaders and staff to evaluate events and ministries, and set term limits for key leadership positions, both of which have been approved by church council. Training materials have been prepared for new leaders.

The **Communications Team** has encouraged the development of a new web site, which was rolled out in December 2018, with a mobile friendly design and easily navigated by people looking into our church. Ideas for better signage around the church are in the works in cooperation with the Trustees.

The **Outreach Task Force** has read [The Art of Neighboring](#) and is sponsoring Firepit Fridays and other events to connect neighbors and church members through outreach. They are planning neighborhood home gathering with a meal and conversation. A sermon series on hospitality was offered in October and hospitality training was offered church-wide through committees and small groups.