



Avodah Project: Revitalizing Work

Background

Several forces bring Solano Community Church to the point of starting a comprehensive Faith and Work ministry. Practically, we have grown large enough to support targeted ministries that go beyond Sunday worship and small group.

Missionally, we have come to see how integral a full-orbed theology and practice of work is to reaching the career-oriented city dwellers in our community. Being in the East Bay Area, with a world-class university in Cal Berkeley, a national laboratory in the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, several large biotech firms and a major movie production company in Pixar, we have highly educated congregants who are busy shaping many aspects of the world in which we live. In these demanding fields, work becomes a significant part of a person's identity so it is extremely important that we help them integrate this part of who they are with the life-giving gospel. A comprehensive Faith and Work ministry will help us do just that.

Spiritually, it seems our leadership has been prepared for this season through strong mentors and a series of serendipitous events. Our Sr. Pastor, Andrew Hoffman, has had the privilege of sitting under the instruction of Dr. David Gill for nearly 20 years in both formal and informal settings (he married David's daughter!). A 2011 encounter with Tom Nelson, pastor and author of *Work Matters*, gave Andrew a vision for what a Faith and Work ministry might look like in a local church. In 2013, one of our staff took the title Director of City Mission so that we might more strategically address the issues people face in our city, including work.

Pastorally, we recently began to probe matters of faith and work with our congregants through an initiative entitled, "Bring Your Pastor to Work." Several fruitful meetings ensued with Pastor Andrew, congregants and their co-workers all spending time together in the work environment. These meetings served to underscore the need for a ministry aimed at helping people bring the gospel to bear more fully on their vocational lives.

Lastly, SF Mission and Kern Pastor Brent Kompelien was recently approved by the Kern foundation for a grant to support churches starting Faith and Work ministries. All told, we feel God is moving us strongly in this direction! What follows are the details of what we envision for a Faith and Work ministry at Solano Community Church. These have been born amidst prayer and conversation within the church and in consultation with Dr. David Gill.