



Immerse Yourself

From the Pastor's Purple Pen



Redeemer United Church of Christ

Redeemer,

As I look outside the window and see the fall colors beginning to reveal themselves and the weather changing, I am reflecting on changes happening at Redeemer. The purpose of making changes is to find ways of being and doing church. Some of the changes that have taken place like the restructuring of ministry teams and restructuring of our office, though they are changes, they in themselves are not ways of being and doing church. However, they do create a new foundation that makes it easier and more efficient to do and be church.

We are continuing to look at ways of re-organizing our church structure with the purpose of maximizing possibilities for the future. The overall structure of the church should be set up to make the work of the church desirable and as easy as possible. But what I want everyone to keep in mind is real change only happens when we start to do and be church in new ways. Those changes, like the leaves outside are visible to others, not just in the Redeemer family, but in the community as well.

So, as we sit down and ask ourselves how we want to change our ways of being and doing church, we need to examine our vision statement and ask three main questions. The first question is do we still strive to be spiritually alive and growing, inclusive of all God's people and engaged in our communities? Assuming that the answer is yes, our vision statement is still Redeemer's vision, we can follow up with two additional questions. What are things we are not doing that hold us back from fulfilling our vision? In other words, let's give ourselves an honest self-evaluation. And finally, what are some directions we can take to attempt to follow our vision? Furthermore, what are things that we can actually do that make our vision statement come to life, rather than remain words on paper?

One of the ways, I invited you to do something was to take on the Jesus Challenge. I know some of you have taken on the challenge. The items on the list aren't overly difficult or significant, but the purpose is beyond the small gestures. The purpose is to get you in a habit of doing and living out our faith. To constantly think about that on a weekly basis. Little Charlie commented on the Jesus Challenge, "I'm tired. It's hard work being Jesus." It is work to change what we've done before, but when we do it enough it becomes a habit. Even bigger challenges can be done when we are dedicated to living out our vision of church and putting action to our faith. That action, whatever we decide it will be, is what draws people to church. Doing and being church is doing something and knowing without a doubt, why we are doing it.

I believe we can do great things and be a bold church. But to make things happen, no one can sit on the sidelines; for we are the church together. Let's do it!

Blessings,
Pastor Julie

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