



### Summary from ReForming Retreat #3

Thank you again to each of you for your prayers and investment in ReForming! Though there were challenges we had to overcome, including the death of one of our lead consultants, we had a wonderful end to the Visioning Retreats and can't wait to share more with you all over the summer and into the fall. Look for more about ReForming over the summer, and then mark your calendars for September 9<sup>th</sup> as we launch our fall programming AND propose our ReForming Core Values, Strategic Priorities, and Strategic Focus.

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any one of the staff, the Visioning Team, or the Council.

Here is to God's goodness in this next season! We are with you in prayer and anticipation.

### Retreat 3A (May 19<sup>th</sup>): Building Our Identity Around our Core Values

- We began with a half hour of prayer and reflection on our work together.
- As we gathered for Retreat #3 we revisited the **Core Values** and worked through the feedback we received from the larger congregation related to the themes we had heard in our collective stories.
- Kevin reminded us that this ReForming process is about "Rethinking how we do church around who we already are."
- Over this next year we will work to implement our core values in our community and begin living into being more fully who God is inviting our church to become.
- We broke up into groups to develop ideas and ways that we will implement the core values...this is strategic priority number one. Ideas we discussed included everything from a sermon series to signage, classes, engagement with the congregation, and more.
- We turned the corner to talk about another aspect of our **True North: our Strategic Priorities**.
- We ended our time by synthesizing what we were hearing from the group about our strategic priorities that have bubbled up (again, all of this is from our focus groups, surveys, your stories, feedback, etc.).

### Retreat 3B (June 2<sup>nd</sup>): Strategic Priorities

- We took some time at the beginning to check-in about how we were feeling/what we were hearing from the congregation.
- We talked about the anxiety many had been feeling with needing to wait for the launch until the fall and how we can be intentional to continue to listen and create together as we move towards implementation.
- Kevin reminded us that our **first strategic priority** for this fall is to infuse our core values into all aspects of our community life over year one.
- We then continued to refine our other strategic priorities, in view of who we have been and who we sense God is inviting us to be.
- This was challenging but Kevin helped us gain clarity, organizing our priorities in line with the idea of breathing in (being transformed, healed, restored) and then breathing out (living out this transformation in our lives and the world). More to come on this!
- We talked about three outcomes that we could look at five years from now that would let us know if we were successful in living out these strategic priorities. The energy was palpable as we talked about what this would look and feel like.
- We ended the day by moving to the final element of our **True North**, our **Strategic Focus**. As a reminder, this is NOT a mission statement. It's a "Charter" which provides focus in light of our mission and vision. Said alternatively: What must we bet the farm on for this season in the life of our church? Where is our church's greatest passion and the community's greatest need? The discerned answer to this question will be a tool for leadership to say "Yes" or "No" to opportunities.

### Retreat 3C (June 3<sup>rd</sup>): Strategic Focus & Pathway Forward

- The goal of this final session was to solidify the **Strategic Focus** and to talk about how to build energy and momentum toward the **September 9<sup>th</sup> Fall Kick Off** and sharing of the proposed Core Values, Strategic Priorities, and Strategic Focus.
- We shared what we were hearing/thinking about in terms of how to articulate the strategic focus.
- We discussed our plan for the summer for engaging the congregation and community.
- We talked about what it will look like when Kevin joins us for the **September 9<sup>th</sup> Fall Kick Off and Reforming: Looking Forward Together**
- We finished with prayer and reflections about what God has been doing in our midst.

Look for more over this summer and then plan to join us for **September 9<sup>th</sup> Fall Kick Off AND Reforming: Looking Forward Together**. May God's Spirit breathe on and in us we continue ReForming!