



Staff/Board/Implementation and Subcommittee Team Planning Retreat

On Friday, January 22 and Saturday, January 23 Prince of Peace staff, board members and lay members of the Vision Implementation Subcommittees gathered to discuss the Prince of Peace Vision (popmn.org/vision) and the steps the church needs to take in the next 18 months to move into the Vision. The retreat was led by Prince of Peace member Matt Johnson, who prepared the 55 attendees for the retreat through a series of assignments during the weeks preceding the retreat. These assignments included reviewing the subcommittee reports, reading scripture and praying over key questions.

At the retreat, Matt led attendees through a series of discussions – both in small groups and as a large group – around three core questions: WHAT, WHO and WHY.

WHAT two big, visible initiatives will Prince of Peace embrace over the next 18 months?

- Big means something “God-sized” that requires God’s Grace and will have many disciples saying, come June 2017, “I helped make that happen!”
- What will success look like in June, 2017?
- These initiatives must require collaboration with other partners in ministry.

WHO needs to be a part of the team to make these two initiatives successful?

- What ministry partners are already doing work in these areas?
- Who will lead these initiatives and develop the project plan to determine how we will move forward.
- Who will hold accountability for focus and progress?
- Who will recruit, equip and inspire many disciples to become engaged in these initiatives?

WHY should these initiatives be done? Why are we the ones to do it?

- How will we clearly articulate why these initiatives matter to our faith and to the Kingdom of God?
- How do we clearly articulate why these initiatives would matter the disciples of Prince of Peace?

Discussion at the retreat was passionate, creative and faith-filled. Many ideas and dreams were shared, but over the course of the retreat conversation kept returning to two initiatives: partnering with Reaching Up Ministries and Senior Companions. These two initiatives bring us a few steps closer to being a critical partner with other organizations, spreading God’s love throughout the south metro area and beyond, with specific focus on children, seniors and people in poverty. Both ministries are already effectively doing the work that we believe God is calling us to do. They are ready to expand ministry in our area and are open to partnership with us. The consensus of the retreat participants was that Reaching Up Ministries and Senior Companions

provide excellent “first steps” for moving into our vision of providing hope and wholeness to vulnerable populations in the south metro.

Reaching Up Ministries (reachingupministries.org) works in partnership with schools to provide academic and enrichment activities to children who qualify for free lunch. For 10 years, Reaching Up Ministries has been partnering with schools, businesses and churches to serve students in School District 196 (Rosemount, Apple Valley and Eagan). They have been looking for partners to expand into District 191 (Burnsville, Eagan and Savage).

Prince of Peace is specifically looking at partnering with Reaching Up Ministries on their Homework Help program (serving students in grades Kindergarten-8) and their Summer Loaves (providing families with food for making lunches for students during the summer months). Both programs also include enrichment activities, mentoring and a community meal. Jason Kramme and Eric Elton will meet to discern and recruit a core team of Prince of Peace disciples to lead the Reaching Up initiative. They will also meet with Gia Brown of Reaching Up Ministries to get the ball rolling.

Senior Companions (www.lssmn.org/oa/seniorcompanion) is a service of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Senior Companions trains volunteers to help seniors maintain the highest level of dignity and independence by being a friend who listens and cares, visiting homebound isolated adults, helping with routine errands or transportation, providing support to family caregivers. Sandy Rothschiller will work with her team to discern a few leaders to engage with Lutheran Social Service (LSS) and begin to work out details of the Senior Companion program.

In addition to these two initiatives, the retreat surfaced how important cultural change is to our future. There was a strong feeling that these initiatives should not just lead to more programming, but should become a part of Prince of Peace’s DNA. Three necessary changes to the Prince of Peace culture were identified:

- Deepening spiritual formation in staff, leadership and disciples which will equip disciples to grow;
- Ownership of the ministry leading to deeper engagement; and
- Breaking down barriers and deepening community within Prince of Peace and with our neighbors.

We are grateful for the members of six committees who spent the last 14 months in prayer, research, discernment and development of recommendations to begin implementation of God’s vision for Prince of Peace. Please continue to keep the implementation process in your prayers and watch the Direction and Weekly Update for more information and opportunities to engage in the process.