

We thought we'd use this month's space to provide an overview of just what Congregational Life ministry encompasses, because a number of congregation members have stopped by to ask. There are basically four areas to our ministry at NPC. Our team helps new members integrate into the congregation and long-standing members continue in their fellowship, participation, and service. As such, we work cooperatively with many of the other ministries of the church. So, let's take a closer look at each area...

#### Integration:

Webster says: "To make into a whole by bringing parts together; unify. To open to all people or groups." At NPC, this consists of helping new members and less active current members find areas of interest in the life of the church.

- Actions our team takes are clear in terms of new members; we assist in new member classes, and offer a series of informal opportunities for those new to our church to be exposed to one or more members on a personal one-on-one or small group basis.
- The latter part is impossible to organize per se, but rather results from relationships and conversations that occur day-to-day with members who have been less active, and keeping our eyes/ears open to indications of those who might wish to become more active.

#### Fellowship:

Webster's definition: "Friendly relationship; companionship. A union of peers or friends; fraternity." At NPC, this would seem to happen 'naturally' you might say, and indeed it does. What our team does is to be more intentional, seeking to make all members comfortable in any/all situations whether familiar or new to them.

In addition, we want to organize one or two activities a year that have the potential of congregation-wide appeal to broaden the opportunities for increased church fellowship.

#### Participation:

Again, Webster says: "To join with others in something; take part. To have a share in something". At NPC, this means that our team will assist in the promotion of a variety of programs offered by the church, encouraging members who have traditionally stayed in one program out of habit or comfort to branch out and experiment with trying other offered programs.

Our team is also responsible for organizing Spiritual Gifts classes to help those interested in more deeply understanding the unique gift(s) that God has bestowed upon you.

#### Service:

Webster says: "Work or duties performed for others. To be of assistance to others."

At NPC this is perhaps the most visible in events in the execution of the annual Ministry Fair in the Fall and the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at the holidays.

Our team also assists in matching volunteers with ministries, and is frequently called upon to help a wide variety of ministries find interested parties to be involved in their individual efforts.

#### Summary:

Bottomline, the Congregational Life ministry is simply to help all members find your place(s) in the life of NPC, to further deepen and enrich your own relationship with God, and to find your place in the church community. We are here to help you find programs and activities that appeal to you, and from which you might be particularly blessed.

We encourage you to contact us anytime we can help you decipher where you might like to become active, [vmuller@norotonchurch.org](mailto:vmuller@norotonchurch.org), or 655-1451 ext. 16.