

Pastor's Perspective: Leading Through Leaders

May 2018

Luke tells us in the sixth chapter of his gospel that one day Jesus went up on a mountain to pray all night. As day broke he called together all those following him at that time and chose from among them 12 “messengers”. Luke goes on to list their names and even some of their nicknames, perhaps to communicate the extra comradery he had with this group. More and more people would eventually follow Jesus but these 12 are the ones he’d invest in relationally throughout his ministry. Even though he loved the whole world, Jesus led his mission through other leaders. His leadership is an example to me.

This is why I have asked certain individuals to give leadership to specific areas of our congregational life, particularly our Sunday morning worship service. Libby Wideman is leading in the music arena, Aaron Albrecht the audio/visual and Pam Keough hospitality. These gifted individuals are currently investing themselves into these areas and are seeking to develop dedicated teams to accomplish the respective responsibilities. Amanda Snyder was employed last year as our Office Manager helping give leadership to various administrative responsibilities. While there are numerous others at CCAM giving of themselves to various and often multiple aspects of congregational life and though we have other fully functioning leadership teams such as Council, Elders and Missions, it is to these leaders that I am giving extra energy anticipating their own growth as individuals, a greater impact on those they lead and overall longevity for the mission of CCAM.

We will spend concentrated time together and utilize resources to train in, better understand and practically implement leadership principles. You might hear of us attending a seminar together or participating in an off-site team building activity. If you haven’t already, you may be asked to help serve on one of

these teams and as we grow at CCAM other teams with respective team leaders will likely develop. Having leaders lead teams will encourage better organization and flow of communication. By clearly identifying responsibility it helps us all accomplish and become more as a whole.

At first glance it may seem to some like I am playing favorites or neglecting the needs of the overall body by focusing on a few. I'm certainly not immune to either but I pray regularly that Jesus, through his Holy Spirit, would be the ultimate leader of this congregation. Working closely with the Elder Team helps maintain this accountability. We work hard together at maintaining and improving the overall health of CCAM as does our 9-member Church Council. As pastor I'm convinced, however, that I actually serve the whole body better by equipping leaders to lead others.

One last thought...I believe a key growth area of leadership for CCAM is in children's ministry. We have several dedicated individuals giving their time to fill current needs but we lack overall leadership and vision for leading children (ages 0-18) toward becoming life-long apprentices of Jesus. We have been more keenly aware of this need for the last several months and currently Council is prayerfully considering how God is leading us to fill this gap. I invite you to imagine with us what it could be like for God to raise up a passionate children's minister from among His Church to serve in our local body that we might be even better stewards of these treasures we call children.

I would enjoy hearing from you and discussing congregational life with you. My office door and email inbox is OPEN. I'm also willing to come to you or chat over the phone. So please feel free to connect with me as we journey this life together in Christ because there is always more on my heart than I am able to articulate via sermons or through *The Pastor's Perspective*.