

NFCConnection, June 2007

Introduction by Pastor James Bergen

Conversations are good. At least they are most of the time. I love talking with people. Sometimes, though, it depends on where or how they happen. I am not a phone guy. I don't like having a conversation on the phone. Let's talk about what we need to and then hang up. I am a coffee guy. I love to sit with someone one-on-one over a cup of java and talk about life or love or God or sports or whatever.

I don't know what kind of conversations you like to have or how you like to have them, but I would like to invite you into a significant conversation here at NFC.

One of my mandates as pastor at NFC is to help lead the congregation, *"in carrying out the mission God has given North Fresno Church, calling the church toward its purpose of becoming a missional church and modeling that through one's own lifestyle."*

I would like to invite you into this missional conversation. Many of you are already there. For others it is a brand new conversation. What is 'missional'? You can't even find it in the dictionary. I know! I asked Ray Bystrom to give us a brief and basic introduction to this missional church conversation. It is the feature article in this newsletter

Over the past months the leadership teams have been processing how we can continue to intentionally call the church toward our missional purpose. Initiating an intentional conversation with the whole NFC family is where we would like to start. I asked Tim Neufeld to outline some of the ways we would like to have this conversation in the next few months. As part of the process, we will be utilizing some of the resources from Tim's doctoral program in missional leadership at Fuller Seminary. You will find that piece here in the NFCConnection too.

In my opinion, we are intuitively missional as a congregation. There are many examples, but one of them is the ministry of the SART Team (Social Action Response Team). In this issue you will also find an update from Pastor Loren about what has been going on in our community through SART.

I invite you to be a significant part of this missional conversation. It is not just my mandate, it is *our* mandate. We will try and create the right environment for how you like to have good conversation. I look forward to it, and not just talking but living it together.

Sincerely In Christ,
Pastor James

