



Transformation

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
(II Corinthians 3:18)*

“We value the importance of congregations who are transforming the lives of their members and the communities where they serve and thus commit to resourcing and partnering with congregations to be places of health and transformation for the sake of Kingdom growth.” (SED Value)

This is the value statement for transformation that flows from our understanding of our Lord’s desire for us as His Church on earth – His people. As disciples we are to have our minds renewed daily and we are to have the mind of Christ. Because we are saints, yet remain sinners, this is an ongoing daily process.

When the citizens of Jerusalem and Judea came to John the Baptizer in the wilderness, he told them that while he baptized them with water there was one coming who was mightier than him who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. While we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit in our sacramental baptism, Jesus promised that those who come to Him would have streams of living water flowing from them – this is an ongoing process. We are baptized once, but the filling with the Holy Spirit is a daily progressive process.

For congregations to be renewed, the members, leaders and pastor must be renewed. For members, leaders and pastors to be renewed, the congregation (church) must be renewed. This seems like a tautology, but like all of the paradoxes of our faith, the resolution comes when we realize this is not our doing, but that of the Lord. It is His Church. He creates and he sustains faith. He works in and through each of us as He does through His Church on earth. Perhaps that is why one of the great mottos of the Reformation is “ecclesia semper reformata est” – the church is always being reformed.

Lord God, Heavenly Father, as you have sent your Holy Spirit into my life to create faith, continue to move me through daily meditation on Your Word, daily remembrance of my Baptism, and frequent reception of Christ’s Body and Blood, to grow in that true faith, that as I am daily renewed, You may use me to serve You as I minister to those around me, sharing the Good news of Your love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, in whose Name I ask this.

