

The Church Council meeting
Sunday, May 19, 2019
Pastor's Report

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (§ 120 of The book of Discipline 2016).

Over the past months, we have been struggling with the result of the General Conference of 2019. I sense that it still remains in us as an embarrassment of conflict. During the last week, I participated in meetings from the “Mission” and Finance” committees. Sitting around the tables, we were talking about how to strengthen our ministry and enhance our finance but we couldn’t find “practical solutions.” In my personal devotional time, I have been praying to the Lord for his grace and guidance to overcome all the challenges we face as the church.

I believe God had touched my anxious heart and answered my prayers when I attended a workshop last week. It reminded me of my primary work as a pastor, that is, how to make “*discipleship*,” or build leadership in the congregation. I would like to share with you some key points that I learned from the workshop:

- “If you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples. But if you make disciples, you will always get the church” (*Building a Discipleship Culture* by Mike Breen).
- “Our focus must move away from “fixing” churches toward making and growing disciples”
- “A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ, and sharing Christ.”
- “The problem is not a lack of people. The problem is our inability to see and reach them.”
- “If we are serious about changing the culture in our churches, we need to get serious about discipleship.”
- “The future of deeper discipleship lies in equipping and empowering people to find leadership within themselves.”

It is in this spirit that I offer a call to intentional discipleship with the desire 1) to inspire a passion for seeing and serving all people in our congregation, 2) to empower people to find leadership within themselves, and 3) to help bring call to our mission as a church. It is my prayer that our church will have a relentless focus on making disciples and a disciple-making movement might bring us all together as one body in Christ and transfer all our challenges as growing pains for the future of our church.

In prayer
Pastor SeokCheol Shin