



## AROS Cohort Information Session

Next Faithful Step Staff Team:

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General Information: [www.ngumc.org/nextsteps](http://www.ngumc.org/nextsteps)

Cohort Specific Information: [www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016](http://www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016)

## NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WELCOME TO THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP INITIATIVE

The *Next Faithful Step Initiative* is a congregational, team-based journey designed to further equip congregations for a more fruitful congregational and community life. Next Steps, a partnership of North Georgia's Connectional Ministries, Congregational Development, and Episcopal Offices, seeks to strengthen congregations and principled leaders in our annual conference for long-term growth and missional engagement. Through three phases, Next Steps engages clergy and lay teams as partners in effective ministry. Trained coaches come alongside congregational leaders to help congregations effectively fulfill their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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### Phase One: Shared Learning

**What is it?** In Phase I, each church establishes a balanced, diverse, and multi-generational lay team of at least six (and as many as 10% of worship attendance) that meets with teams from cohort congregations for seven Saturday learning sessions. Appointed clergy attend a Thursday session just for pastors. It is imperative that the lead pastor and, at least, six laity attend all sessions. Associate pastors are encouraged to attend with the lead pastor. The laity team may include paid staff, but must include key leaders as well. These learning sessions are designed to help each team learn key concepts and best practices to develop as congregational leaders. As a result, your congregation will set in motion a team of leaders to help it take its next faithful step.

When forming your Next Steps Team, please form a balanced, diverse, and multi-generational team of at least 6 lay people (or as many of 10% of your worship attendance) and all clergy.

- **Balanced** - Short and long tenured members; people who have held leadership positions and influence and people who are marginalized or rarely heard in the planning and leadership life of your community.
- **Diverse** - What does diversity look like for your church and community? Do your best to include all facets of diversity in your congregational life.
- **Multi-Generational** - Please include people of all ages on your team. Include youth, young adults, adults, and older adults. Please also include people in different life stages (single, married, with and without children, widowed, etc.)

### What to Expect:

Each session will consist of teaching, spiritual reflection, interaction with the ideas and concepts, and group sharing. Participants are required to read a book each month in order to contribute to each session's topic. **Each church (clergy & lay) team is required to meet at least once between**

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sessions to debrief the session, discuss the readings, and to see how each person is progressing toward applying the learned concepts.

- **Cost:** Each church (or congregational leader) is asked to purchase their books for Phase I.
- Any web links or videos will be available at [www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016](http://www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016) for viewing

**Site Visits for each participating congregation will be scheduled during the month of February. Next Steps staff will visit your church for an opportunity to get to know you and answer any questions about the Next Steps process.**

### What's Next?

**Phase II** includes 360° Evaluations, Hospitality Reports, On-Site Evaluations and Discovery of the Next Faithful Steps. This is conducted over a weekend in your local congregation. The cost for Phase II: \$1 per average worship attendee for Hospitality Reports.

**Phase III** includes Congregational Discernment and working with a trained coach to implement the discerned action plan. The cost for congregations in Phase III is based on each congregation's Next Faithful Step Action Plan. Minimally, the church will be responsible for the expenses accrued by your coach.

## SCHEDULE: PHASE I

- **Laity Sessions** will be held on Saturdays at a central church location. Gather at 8:30 am for fellowship, light breakfast snacks, and coffee. Learning sessions will run from 9:00 am to Noon.
- **Clergy Sessions** will be held on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and will rotate among the cohort churches.

### Session One: JOINT SESSION - March 5, 2016 - "Getting Started"

**Read:** *Handouts - See Appendix - Session One*

**Watch:** *Ted Talk - "Start With Why" by Simon Sinek*

**Take:** *Online MissionInsite Church Life Survey*

**Clergy and Laity Joint Session:** *8:30am - Gathering; 9:00 am-12:00 Noon - Session; March 5, 2016 at Christ Church UMC 1340 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075*

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Session Two: April 2016- "Leadership and Discipleship Part I"

**Read:** *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church* by Michael Foss (Introduction - Chapter 5)

**Watch:** *Ted Talk - "Leaders Eat Last" by Simon Sinek*

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**Laity Session:** April 9 at Christ Church UMC 8:30am Gathering;

9:00 am-12:00 Noon - Session

**Clergy Session:** April 7 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at \_\_\_\_\_

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Session Three: May 2016 - "Leadership and Discipleship Part II"

**Read:** *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church* by Michael Foss (Chapter 6 - Closing Words)

**Watch:** Greg McKeown: *Essentialism - The Disciplined Pursuit of Less*

**Laity Session:** May 21 at Christ Church UMC - 8:30 am - Gathering;

9:00 am-12:00 Noon - Session

**Clergy Session:** May 19 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at \_\_\_\_\_

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

### June and July - No Sessions

### Session Four: August 2016 - "Preparing for the Next Faithful Step - Part 1"

**Read:** *Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church* by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan (Forward-Chapter 4)

**Watch:** *Renovate or Die: 10 Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission* by Bob Farr with Kay Kotan

**Laity Session:** August 6 at Christ Church UMC - 8:30 am - Gathering;

9:00am-12:00 Noon - Session

**Clergy Session:** August 4 at 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at \_\_\_\_\_

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Session Five: September 2016- "Preparing for the Next Faithful Step - Part 2"

**Read:** *Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church* by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan (Chapter 5 - Epilogue)

**Laity Session:** September 10 at Christ Church - 8:30 am - Gathering;

9:00 am-12:00 Noon - Session

**Clergy Session:** September 8 at 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at \_\_\_\_\_

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Session Six: October 2016 - "Community and Mission"

**Read:** *Touch* by Pastor Rudy Rasmus (Part 1)

**Laity Session:** October 8 at Christ Church UMC - 8:30 am - Gathering;

9:00 am-12:00 Noon - Session

**Clergy Session:** October 6 at 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at \_\_\_\_\_

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

Clergy Only Session: - November 3,

Read: Handouts - To Be  
nextstepsspring2015



2016 - "Communication"

Provided - [www.ngumc.org/](http://www.ngumc.org/)

Session Seven: JOINT SESSION - November 5, 2016 - "Vision"

**Bring:** Church Mission and Vision Statement

**Clergy and Laity Joint Session:** 8:30 am - Gathering; 9:00 am-12:00 Noon - Session;

November 5, 2016 at Christ Church UMC

**My Church Team's Gathering:** \_\_\_\_\_

Other Scheduling Notes:

A NOTE REGARDING THE SCHEDULING OF PHASE II:  
**EACH CHURCH WILL SIGN UP FOR A CONSULTATION WEEKEND THAT WILL BE HELD  
BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2017. THOSE DATES WILL BE ASSIGNED NO LATER THAN THE  
APRIL 2016 SESSION.**



## APPENDIX: THE RESOURCES

### Web Resources

- **General Resources:** [www.ngumc.org/nextsteps](http://www.ngumc.org/nextsteps)
- **Cohort Specific Resources:** [www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016](http://www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016)

### Print or E-Book Resources

Purchase required and recommend resources here:

- At [www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016](http://www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016) - Click link for "Resource Store"
- <http://astore.amazon.com/thenexfaiste-20>
- <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?productGroupName=Next+Faithful+Step+Initiative+VSL+Recommended+List>

### People Resources

Contact the Staff Team with questions or for more information:

- Rev. Jasmine Smothers - [jasmine.smothers@ngumc.net](mailto:jasmine.smothers@ngumc.net)
- Office: 678.533.1446 or [jbush@ngumc.org](mailto:jbush@ngumc.org) - Mrs. Judy Imig-Bush, Administrative Assistant

### Session One Resources

- Ted Talk: "How Great Leaders Inspire Action"
  - [http://www.ted.com/talks/simon\\_sinek\\_how\\_great\\_leaders\\_inspire\\_action](http://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action)
- Online MissionInsite Church Life Survey
  - <https://maps.missioninsite.com/Survey.aspx?ParentPage=MI>
- Six Minute Book Review and Chapter One
  - Handouts Provided Here: [www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016](http://www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016)

### Sessions Two and Three Resources

- Ted Talk: "Leaders Eat Last"
  - [http://www.ted.com/talks/simon\\_sinek\\_how\\_great\\_leaders\\_inspire\\_action](http://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action)
- *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church* by Michael Foss
  - <http://astore.amazon.com/thenexfaiste-20>
  - <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?productGroupName=Next+Faithful+Step+Initiative+VSL+Recommended+List>
- Essentialism Handout
  - [www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016](http://www.ngumc.org/nextstepsAROS2016)

## Sessions Four and Five Resources

- ***Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church*** by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan
  - <http://astore.amazon.com/thenexfaiste-20>
  - <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?productGroupName=Next+Faithful+Step+Initiative+VSL+Recommended+List>
- ***Renovate or Die: 10 Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission*** by Bob Farr with Kay Kotan
  - *Video Provided*

## Session Six Resources

- *Touch* by Pastor Rudy Rasmus
  - <http://astore.amazon.com/thenexfaiste-20>
  - <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?productGroupName=Next+Faithful+Step+Initiative+VSL+Recommended+List>

## Clergy Only Session and Session Seven Resources

- Handouts to be provided