The Next Faithful Step Initiative is a congregational, team-based journey designed to further equip congregations for a more fruitful congregational and community life. 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.

Next Faithful Step Phase I: Shared Learning

What is it? In Phase I, each church establishes a laity 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 help each team learn key concepts and best practices to develop as congregational leaders. As a result, your congregation will develop a team of leaders to help it take its next faithful step.
Phase I: What will we learn?

Topics and Tentative Book List

Info Session - Dr. Phil Schroeder, Dr. Mike Selleck and Rev. Jasmine Smothers: Clergy and Laity teams meet together on August 21 at Senoia UMC, 229 Bridge Street, Senoia, GA 30276 at 7:00 p.m.

September 2014 - “The Why: Getting Started”
Read: Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard by Chip Heath and Dan Heath
Watch: Ted Talk - “Start With Why” by Simon Sinek

Read: Renovate or Die: 10 Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission by Bob Farr with Kay L. Kotan

Read: Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church by Michael W. Foss

CLERGY ONLY: December 2014 - “Communication”
Read: Communicating for a Change by Andy Stanley

Read: The Teaming Church: Ministry in The Age of Collaboration by Robert C. Crosby

February 2015 - “The Where: Missional Mindsets”
Read: The Externally Focused Church by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson

March 2015 - “The When: NOW!”
Read: Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results by Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

CLERGY ONLY: April 2015 - “Vision”
Read: The Power of Vision: Discover and Apply God’s Plan for Your Life and Ministry by George Barna

www.ngumc.org/nextsteps