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## OUR NEXT CHAPTER...

*“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”* Isaiah 43:18

**“God calls us to the place where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.”**

*Frederick Buechner*

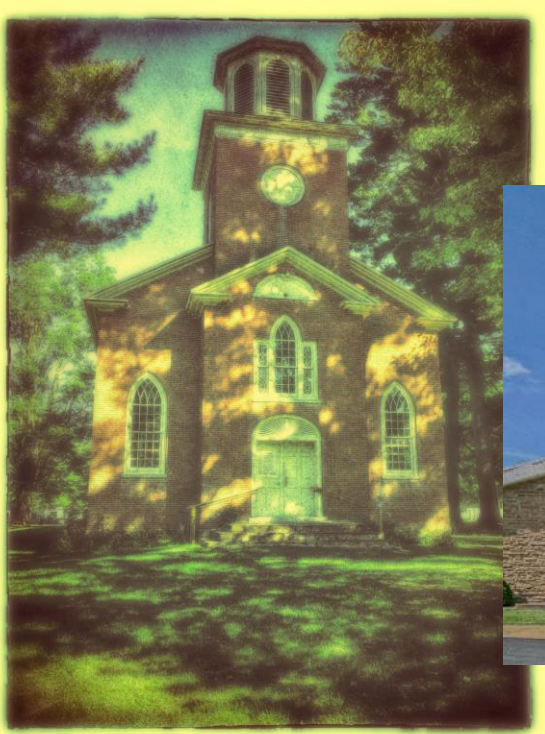
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**What is YOUR passion?**

# Giving Birth to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church

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# PARADIGM SHIFT

A change from  
one way of  
thinking to  
another.



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## What is church?

A noun or a verb?

A building or a way of being in the world?

# Paradigm Shifts for 21st Century Church

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## Old

- **Church** is a place where people go
- **Congregation** is focused on members
- **Ministry** is about providing programs

## New

- **Church** is a way of life
- **Congregation** is focused on mission: sense of purpose
- **Ministry** is about answering the call of God

# Paradigm Shifts for 21st Century Church

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## Old

- **Outreach** is doing nice things for people
- **Evangelism** is about getting new members
- **Worship** is about fulfilling religious obligation

## New

- **Outreach** is service, advocacy, and building relationships
- **Evangelism** is about sharing our faith stories in word and deed
- **Worship** is about connecting with God, and it is diverse and contextual

# Paradigm Shifts for 21st Century Church

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## Old

- **Christian Ed.** is about learning the Bible and doctrine
- **Congregational life** is fellowship, coffee hour and potlucks
- **Stewardship** is the same as finance

## New

- **Christian Ed.** is about making disciples and learning faith practices
- **Congregational life** is a culture of hospitality, service and prayer
- **Stewardship is** about the joy of living generous lives

# Paradigm Shifts for 21st Century Church

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## Old

- **Lay leaders** serve out of duty in roles that are defined by committee structure
- **Pastor** does everything
- **Decisions** are top down

## New

- **Lay leaders** serve in various capacities based on their unique gifts & passions
- **Pastor** and lay leaders work together
- **Decisions** are participatory



# What are 21<sup>st</sup> century people looking for in a church?

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## MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

- Connection with “God”
- Connection with a pastor / spiritual leader
- Connection with people in the congregation
- Connection with the community

# Five Essential Paradigm Shifts

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- **From Fellowship to Hospitality**
- **From Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle**
- **From Membership to Discipleship**
- **From “Serve Us” to Service**
- **From “Survival Mentality” to Generosity**



*“I am  
doing a  
new  
thing...  
do you  
perceive  
it?”*