



Welcome

Shady Grove - Mechanicsville

Discovery

Lebanon

Mt. Pisgah

St. Mark's

Woodlake

District NLI Team

- ▶ Maria Maxwell - Richmond District
Overall organization, planning, program development,
Clergy Peer Learning Group leader, budgets,
Innovations Weekend Team leader
- ▶ Jason Stanley - Elizabeth River District
Overall organization, planning, program development,
Clergy Peer Learning Group leader, budgets,
Innovations Weekend Team leader
- ▶ Wendy Howard - Elizabeth River District
Organization, planning and communications.
- ▶ Pete Moon - DS, mentor team leader, grants
- ▶ Wayne Snead - DS, mentor team leader, grants



Tonight's Goals

- ▶ Introduce Next Level Innovations (NLI)
- ▶ Provide an overview of the process
- ▶ Experience from the Field
- ▶ Q & A Time
- ▶ Encourage prayerful discernment



Blessing of the evening and dinner



See, I am
doing a

new thing!

Now it springs up; do
you not perceive it?

I am *making a way* in the
wilderness and streams
in the wasteland.

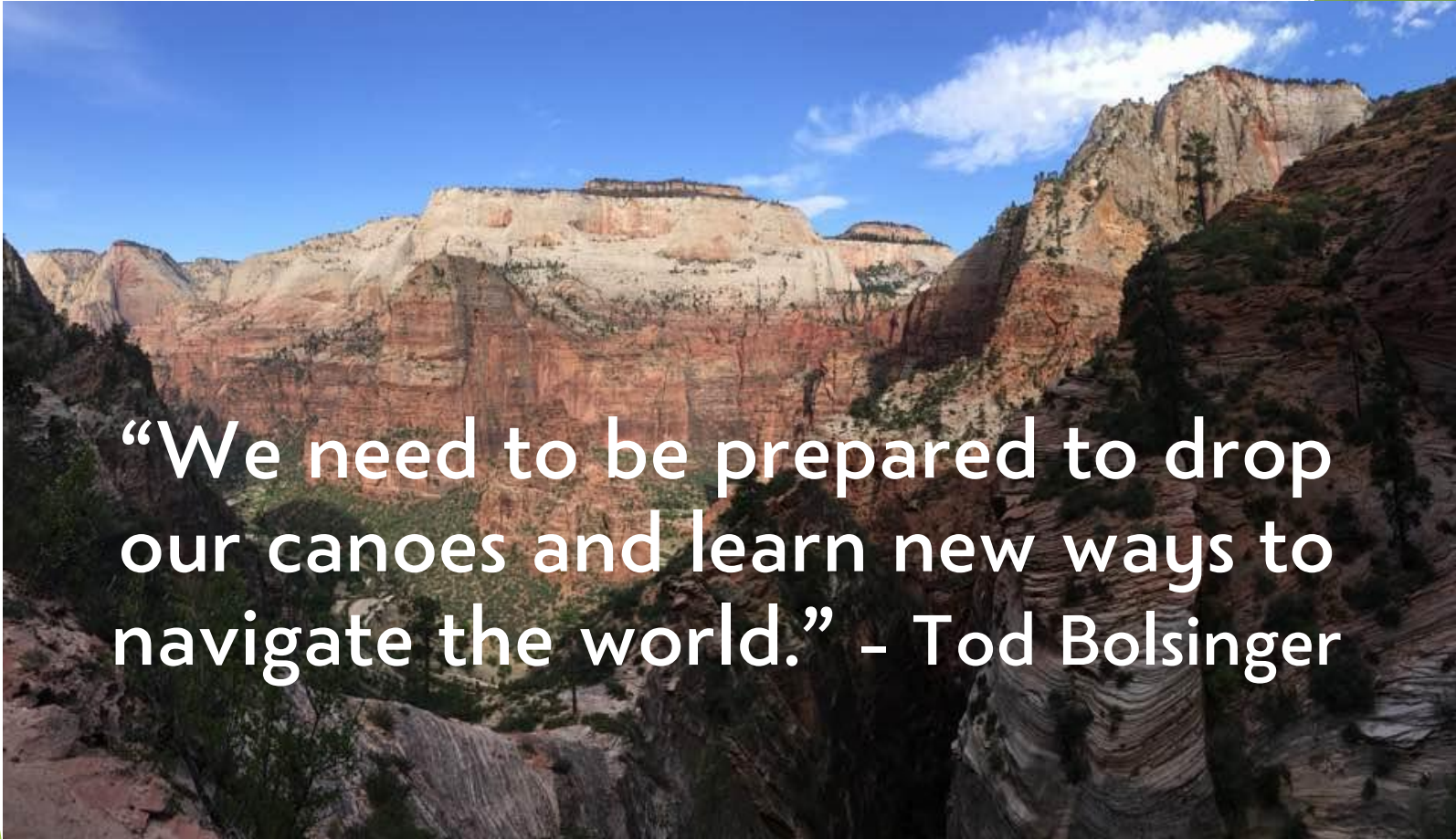
ISAIAH 43:19



NLI Vision

To equip, train and challenge churches to reach the next level of their potential for making disciples of Christ...to go from GOOD to GREAT!





“We need to be prepared to drop our canoes and learn new ways to navigate the world.” – Tod Bolsinger



What is NLI?

- ▶ It was founded and rooted in prayer
- ▶ An investment in medium size and large churches that have recognized potential for reaching more people
- ▶ It was adapted by pastors in the Bi-Districts of Alexandria and Arlington from similar initiatives in other conferences Healthy Church Initiative [HCI] from Missouri Conference; Missional Church Consultation Initiative [MCCI] from West Ohio Conference.
- ▶ A 2-3 year process that seeks to equip, train and challenge churches to reach the next level of their potential...to go from good to great!



Pre-Phase 1 : Spring 2018

- ▶ Come and See Dinner
- ▶ Prayerful discernment
- ▶ Signed Covenant
- ▶ NLI church team formation



Phase 1 : Fall 2018-Spring 2019

- ▶ NLI teams attend orientation
- ▶ 9-12 Clergy Peer Learning groups
- ▶ Spiritual Formation Study
- ▶ Clergy/Laity training events
- ▶ Ministry Focus Events



Phase 2 : Spring 2019 - Winter 2020

- ▶ Mystery Worshipers
- ▶ Detailed Church Self Study
- ▶ Innovations Weekend-Detailed report with recommended innovations
- ▶ Town Hall Meetings - Discussion
- ▶ Church Conference - Vote



Phase 3: Fall 2019-Fall 2021

- ▶ Work of the church with specified Mentor
- ▶ District assistance
- ▶ Continuing opportunities for Peer Cohort



What has NLI meant to your church? Experience from the field

Jason Duley,
Galilee UMC, Arlington District



What has NLI meant to your church? Experience from the field

Chad Herndon
New Song UMC, Richmond District



Church Commitment

- ▶ Three year process
- ▶ Daily prayer
- ▶ Attending laity training events
- ▶ Allow your clergy and lay leadership time away to equip themselves in new ways



Church Commitment

- ▶ Congregational Self Study
- ▶ Participation in the Innovations Weekend
- ▶ Discern and vote at town hall meetings
- ▶ If Innovations are approved, work with mentor to implement recommended changes over about a 2 year period
- ▶ Financial commitment of \$3,000 over 3 years.



Lead Clergy Commitment

- ▶ Daily prayer and spiritual preparation
- ▶ Attend 9 clergy peer learning sessions (this is a priority)
- ▶ Implement and practice what you learned at clergy sessions
- ▶ Prepare for and lead congregation through the Innovations Weekend
- ▶ Work with mentor to implement recommended innovations with congregation



District Commitment

- ▶ Provide leadership and administrative support
- ▶ Secure outside funding to offset cost to church
- ▶ Contribute to financing of NLI process
- ▶ Identify and recruit mentors
- ▶ Regularly encourage church leadership and support change process



Next steps

- ▶ Pray and discern whether NLI is right for your church. Is this year the right time?
- ▶ Share NLI materials with broader church
 - ▶ Resources available at nextlevelinnovations.org
- ▶ Questions: Contact your DS or
 - ▶ Maria Maxwell (RD) 804-433-6936 or mariamaxwell@vaumc.org
 - ▶ Jason Stanley (ERD) 804-921-1171 or jasonstanley@vaumc.org



Next steps

- ▶ Make a decision and tell your DS by May 11.
- ▶ Form your church NLI Team
- ▶ Fill out and mail Covenant Agreement with \$500 to your District office before May 30
- ▶ Attend Orientation on Wed., May 30 at 6:45pm (all NLI Team members and pastor)
 - ▶ Large Churches - (RD) Bon Air UMC
 - ▶ Medium Churches - (ERD) Heritage UMC



Questions and Clarifications



Closing Prayer





Thanks for coming!