New Visions is about change. Changing you, changing your congregation, and changing the world.

New Visions is a training program designed to help leaders raise mission consciousness, to plan for mission, and to implement mission efforts in their congregations. Recognizing that change will be resisted less if associated with mission, the training includes effective ways to process change.

Dr. Peter L. Steinke, who initiated the “Bridgebuilder” program for conflicted churches and “Healthy Congregations” to help leaders create and sustain healthy functioning, is the designer of New Visions.

The context in which the church finds itself today is vastly different from the past. New challenges face every congregation. Research shows that 55,000 churches will close in the next 30 years. To sit still and act routinely is to draw closer to this 55,000.

**Staff**

- Paul J. Blom served parishes in California and Texas. For sixteen years he was the bishop of the Gulf Coast Synod (ELCA). He led relief efforts after hurricane Katrina and Rita.

- Jon R. Lee served as pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas. He has been very active both in community and church affairs. Texas Lutheran University gave him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

- Peter L. Steinke has been a pastor, therapist, educator, and consultant. He has authored ten books, including "A Door Set Open" used in this training.

Vernon, Connecticut
February 21-22, 2014
Growth & Renewal

Dr. Peter Steinke has been working for congregations in transition and conflict for more than twenty years. In the last three years, congregations that have been declining in membership and attendance have been seeking his help more than in previous years. Many have sought solutions to their dilemma by forcing out pastors in the hope that new ones will work magic. Others have sought remedy in the use of a program designed outside of their parish; some have made smaller adjustments that lasted only for a brief period. Working with these congregations, Dr. Steinke discovered a number of key variables that he has incorporated into the training program:

- Without some level and number of mature and motivated leaders, little significant effort happens.
- Critical to revitalization is the capacity of leaders to reframe problems as opportunities.
- Clergy and lay leaders, besides being anxious about implementing change for fear of resistance, removal of support, etc., need training in the change process.
- Growth and renewal come from the "ground up", from the collective wisdom of the congregation.
- Solid grounding in Bible and theology give leaders a more receptive hearing from others, and the congregations gain a fresh perspective and confidence.
- Resistance to change is less intense and protracted when change is for the sake of mission.
- Leaders can be frozen in their frustration because they do not know how or where to begin.
- The response to problems can fail because people confuse adaptive problems with technical ones.
- Congregations can be trapped in the status quo because they are not aware of how societal change has affected congregational functioning.

Mission Consciousness

New Visions is a training program designed for leaders to raise mission consciousness, to plan mission activity, and to implement mission efforts in their congregations.

Features

- A training program for raising consciousness and action regarding mission by establishing a "mission school" inside congregations, using Steinke’s new book, the study guides, manual, two DVDs and about 12 hours of training.
- Local Facilitator-trained to conduct training in your own congregation or others.
- Judicatory Training: Special pricing for judicatory sponsored training. We come to you (minimum twenty participants).

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