

## **A Heart to Serve God and People**

This Friday and Saturday, I will have the chance to give about 15 hours of my time to something I really enjoy doing - that is, to be part of a consultation team which will give direction to a United Methodist congregation in our area. I will be working with several other people to lead a process called the Healthy Church Initiative (originally formed in the Missouri Conference). Our goal is to hear on a very deep level the story, the vision, the hopes and dreams, and the fears of the people who are part of that congregation and to help bring clarity and focus to their future. We will look over detailed reports, interview key staff and leaders, and hold focus group conversations.

Why do I want to spend so much time doing this? Because it's a passion of mine to help the church of Jesus Christ succeed in its mission. It has been for a long time. It's one of the main reasons I became a pastor. My heart is awakened when I have opportunities to help take something that's doing good for God's Kingdom and help make it better!

Next week, I'll spend about 15 more hours with our church's part-time staff team, evaluating where God has been at work and setting goals for each of their ministry area for 2018. We will fill out paperwork and have many one-on-one conversations throughout the week. Yes, it's a lot of work and time, but I am excited to do this.

Again, why do I want to spend so much of my time doing this? Because it's a passion of mine to help church leaders succeed in their mission of making disciples. I enjoy helping people, especially leaders, grow. I like to view myself as a coach in those situations.

As we continue to discover our SHAPE for serving others, I ask you: What is your heart or your passion for helping others? What is it that makes your heart beat faster, that you don't mind doing, that gets you going in the morning? Who are the people you love to serve? What kinds of situations tug on your heart?

This Sunday, we will explore the "H" of SHAPE, which is your Heart. How has God given you a Heart (or Passion) to serve? I look forward to pursuing the end goal with you of discovering your Kingdom Purpose and helping you live it out.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor David*