

FROM: Pastor Andy

I have been talking recently about equipping a team of lay persons to assist the pastoral staff in caring for anyone in the congregation and community who may be in some form of crisis or need. I want to explain it a bit further!

Let's just call it a group of persons who are available and have a desire to visit others and share God's love!! Maybe it may be a person in the hospital, or shut in, or experienced a loss, or lonely, or have a need to have a ride to the doctor's office, etc. This will not be a major time commitment, nor long-term. Just when you are available and able! It is not intended to replace pastors' visits, but to supplement them! It will be co-ordinated by the pastoral team. We plan to have 5-6 equipping sessions and then provide oversight and monthly support for those desiring it. Some of you are already doing this on an informal basis, I hope to enlarge what you are already doing, and help you feel part of the ministry-outreach of OGMC. Quite a few of you indicated a desire to do this on the survey sheets a couple months ago.

Some basic qualifications include:

- Be grounded in your own spiritual and faith life. We are never perfect, nor have it all together, but we do need the humility to admit that we are all fellow pilgrims on the journey!
- Have a desire to share God's love in a tangible way, by contacting/visiting, and to be a genuine caring friend.
- Have the time/ability/resources to make visits, or provide transportation for those who may need it.
- Have the ability to accept others unconditionally, to listen non-judgmentally, and encourage and bless others!
- Have the ability to maintain appropriate boundaries of confidentiality and interpersonal relationships when in contact with others. Remember your primary role is to represent Christ, to share His love, and be a representative of OGMC faith family.
- Offer to share scripture and prayer as appropriate and desired.

As I look ahead to the theme for Nov. 17, "Being Sent", I realize this goes right along that theme. So I suggest we wait till then, so I can expand on this a bit more, and begin the equipping sessions Nov. 18.

Pastor Andy