

FROM THE PASTOR'S LAPTOP!

Autumn is here! *"The autumn equinox is the time of balance between day and night, before night takes over and brings the coming winter, a time of darkness and death. This duality between light and dark exists within humanity, and in the work of spiritual transformation. All things must die before they can be born, all spiritual ascent requires descent first, and all those who long for light must firstly face their own inner darkness and overcome it."*¹

The Good News for us here at MCC NOVA is that we have been intentionally looking at who we have been and seeing how we came to be. Now we are spiritually assessing what fits us. As we process this, we may experience some moments of darkness as we notice that some things don't fit us now, and yet we are celebrating our transforming narrative. During the month of October, I'll be preaching on our current vision, mission and core values at MCC NOVA. I hope this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear how God is still speaking through our vision, mission and core values in our spiritual community today.

We are continuing to focus our attention on the Development task, **Step 2):** Become clear about your identity and what we believe God is calling MCC NOVA to be (this must be owned and shared by the community at large). And simultaneously working on Development task, **Step 3):** Managing healthy leadership changes. We will continue with our Third of four parts of our third Sunday forum series called, "A Conversation with the Pastor" following worship. On September 16, we focused on our current identity/branding and begin to reflect on the book, "Moving off the Map" by Thomas G. Bandy as a part of our discussion. Ginny Miles has started a more in-depth discussion on this book on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm through October 31. During our next forum, October 16, will focus on **Part 3:- The Others/Our Neighbors-Inclusion- Power Dynamics – Conflicts of Interest.** Our forums are interactive which means you share with me and the others what you think about the topics being discussed. Although there's nothing like being present in person, if you have missed a session and/or just want to review the information shared during our monthly forums, these materials are posted <http://www.mccnova.com/Transition%20Docs/>. I invite you to look them over and share with me your thoughts about the material.

As always, I look forward to the opportunity to share individual time with you to pray, listen and talk about you and how you are feeling or experiencing our journey here at MCC NOVA. Simply, I care about you and what's going on with your spirit ... I am the Pastor, so please know that I am here to support you pastorally. Please contact the Church office and schedule a phone, in-person or Skype appointment with me.

In the meantime, please continue to keep our journey in your thoughts and prayers! I invite you to take this journey with us!

God Bless!

Rev. Onetta

Intentional Interim Pastor

¹ <http://belsebuub.com/articles/the-spiritual-meaning-of-the-autumn-equinox>