



## **I. THOUGHTS ON OUR THEME AND GOAL FOR 2025**

### **1. Theme: Renew 2025—Becoming the Church God Wants Us to Be**

And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!”  
Revelation 21:5 (NLT)

### **2. Goals: Become the most welcoming church on the planet in 2025**

- Have at least one guest family per week
- Add six new families by the end of the year

### **3. Plans about how to we will achieve these goals**

- Prayer and fasting (Congregation fast on Friday, January 31)
- Preaching and teaching
- Training (Jon Reed Workshop on the weekend of March 22 and 23)

## **II. WAYS TO BE THE MOST WELCOMING CHURCH ON THE PLANET IN 2025**

### **1. Invite guests**

His master then told him, “Go out along the back roads and fence rows and make people come in, so that my house will be full.

Luke 14:23 (CEV)

- **Surveys show that:**

96% of unchurched people would come to church if someone invited them

However, only 21% of church member invited anyone to church and only 2% of members invited an unchurched person

- **Here’s challenge:** Pray everyday for someone to invite to worship or 3 to 5 people that already know that you would like to invite to worship

## **2. View a Sunday morning through the eyes of a first time guest (See 1 Cor. 9:19-22)**

For if you praise God only in the spirit, how can those who don't understand you praise God along with you? How can they join you in giving thanks when they don't understand what you are saying?  
1 Corinthians 14:16 (NLT)

If, then, the whole church meets together and everyone starts speaking in strange tongues—and if some ordinary people or unbelievers come in, won't they say that you are all crazy?  
1 Corinthians 14:23 (TEV)

- **What is it like to be first time guest at Northern Light where you don't anyone, where anything is, or what is going to happen?**

## **3. Realize that I have a personal responsibility to make a guest feel welcome**

Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited. Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.  
Philippians 2:3-5 (GOD'S WORD)

## **4. Resolve to be more guest focused in the future**

Don't do anything that causes another person to trip and fall. It doesn't matter if that person is a Jew or a Greek or a member of God's church. Follow my example. I try to please everyone in every way. I'm not looking out for what is good for me. I'm looking out for the interests of others. I do it so that they might be saved.

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 (NIRV)

- **Other than God who are the most important person in our worship?** The guest
- **Who is the second most important person in a worship?** The person the guest sits next to.
- **The "10 Foot Rule"** = If a guest or member gets within 10 feet of me—I will make eye contact, smile, and warmly greet them in some way
- **The "3 Minute Rule"** = The first three minutes before and after class or worship I talk to a guest or someone I don't know before I talk to my friends.

## **5. Pray for our worship and the guests who will be there**

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 1:18-19 (NLT)