

**From:** St Michael's Vicar [mailto:[vicar@stmichaels.org.nz](mailto:vicar@stmichaels.org.nz)]  
**Sent:** 7 September 2012 1:12 a.m. edited 22 May 2013  
**Subject:** Something interesting from the Vicar - think about it

I writing to ask you to attend an important meeting at St. Mic's, 10am Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. Arguably I think this is the most important meeting I've called in my almost six years in the parish. I ask you to take some time to read the following carefully.

Some of you may remember Iggy's presentation in church some weeks ago concerning reigniting our parish vision. In brief, this emerged from our parish review and revolved around three<sup>1</sup> major themes or foci for our mission and ministry:

- **Global mission partnerships**
- **Present and future generation leadership** in the public square [students, graduates and young professionals]
- **Family ministry**

Undergirding all this is a strong desire expressed by many in the parish to relate more meaningfully to each other as we involve ourselves at different levels and ways in this mission – both within and outside the parish. Life Groups will certainly play a key role here but many are looking for something beyond this.

I believe there is an emerging core of people at St. Mic's who are looking to commit more meaningfully to our parish vision so that we may lever up our impact for God's kingdom "in Kelburn and beyond". I invite you to consider if you may be one of them.

What I am proposing is this:

A fellowship will be formed within St. Mic's that commits to spiritual discipline as a way of underpinning the life and vision of our parish. Members of this group will covenant to mutual accountability and support around four disciplines:

- **Prayer** – for each other, our church and our world
- **Bible study** – toward maturity in Christ together<sup>2</sup>
- **Service** – inside and outside the church (including Gospel witness)
- **Open to God's Call** – living as a disciple of Christ such that everything we are and have are radically available to God.

If you are interested in exploring what this could mean for you, do come to this meeting. If you need baby-sitting in order to come, let me know. If you absolutely can't come but really want to then also let me know. If you don't think this is for you don't feel pressured to come. Other than that, I'll see you there.

Warm regards in Christ  
David

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<sup>1</sup> How to meaningfully and sustainably engage with "the least, the last and the lost" in a way that is appropriate for St. Mic's, is also being explored by the Vicar and Vestry.

<sup>2</sup> ...Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. *Col.1:27b-28*

## **A Call to Commitment:**

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. *Heb.10:23-25*

...let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith... *Heb.12:1-2*

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. *Eph.4:25*

Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing... *1 Thess.5:13b-17a*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. *Col.3:16*

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved... But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” *Rom.10-11,14-15*

## How:

We sign a covenant where we declare our intention:

- to live according to the four disciplines
- to do this both individually and together through a mix of the following:
  - mutual encouragement / caring / engagement in each other's lives – day-to-day, week-to-week
  - regular church attendance at church worship
  - maintenance of regular personal prayer and bible study
  - attendance at (at least) three one day parish retreats a year
  - actively seek prayer partnerships with others in the parish
  - participation in a parish Life Group or parish bible studies (e.g. lent)
  - actively seek opportunities to share the Gospel with those who haven't heard
  - sacrificial giving to support the parish mission and ministry
  - participation in some aspect of ministry and mission either within or outside the parish (in addition to service within our careers)
  - seeking ways to be proactive in remaining open to God's call on my life – including through pursuing deep fellowship with fellow covenanters
- to renew my commitment annually in a service of commitment