

If you are interested in the vision and mission of Cumming United Methodist Church, there's an opportunity coming that will interest you. On May 21st, at the church, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, we'll begin the process of reflecting on and renewing your vision of ministry to make sure you are in alignment with where God is calling your congregation to focus its labors and prayers. I hope you are interested and willing to participate.

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My name is Mike Selleck, and I've been invited to be the facilitator for this three-hour event. I wanted to offer a few words of introduction as we make prayerful preparations for our time together.

I am a retired United Methodist pastor who lives in the greater Cumming area, and a significant portion of my ministry was spent serving as the Director of the North Georgia Conference Office of Connectional Ministries. In this role, among many other things, I assisted congregations in our conference, over 800 of them, sort through the busyness of ministry to make sure they were not overlooking the opportunities God was showing them in their respective communities. I've led groups through this type of experience, quite literally all around the world over many years. My intention is to bring my best efforts to your visioning work.

The time at this gathering will be exclusively dedicated to examining the vision focus of the congregation for purposes of effective ministry and mission to Cumming and beyond. We'll discuss the areas of outreach and impact the congregation has been focused on and what, if anything, should be kept as is, or redirected, or redesigned. This is a great time to prayerfully discern where God may be calling the congregation to get involved with an eye to the best use of time, energy, resources, and talents for the highest good for Christ and the church's evangelistic mission.

As a facilitator, my role is specific: keep the conversations on point and moving forward. It is not a facilitator's role to preach, teach, or direct outcomes, but provide processes that allow participants to explore and develop shared understandings of God's leading. We will not come close to finishing the whole discernment-implementation work at this initial event, but this is precisely where it begins.

I am very aware there are specific issues our denomination is wrestling with and the swirling uncertainty around such things. Those matters, however big and daunting they may seem or be, are not what we'll be discussing or dealing with at this event. Rather, we are gathering to study, discuss, and pray about the day-to-day efforts of your local church as you make tangible the redeeming love of Christ in words and actions in Cumming community. I pray you are as excited and hope filled as I am in this holy work. I also ask that you begin daily prayers that the Lord will be pleased with all our efforts that day.

I look forward to meeting you, interacting with you, and helping you get to a place that makes the best use of all your gifts and talents for the evangelistic work of advancing God's kingdom.

For Christ and Church,

Rev. Mike Selleck