

HIGH POINT

Helping Churches, Disciples and Leaders

Flourish



Ascending Leaders



Zuni, New Mexico

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, GROWING DISCIPLES

Amid a scenic New Mexico valley near Zuni's iconic 3-mile-high mesa, Zuni CR Church seeks to deepen relationships with their neighbors.

Ascending Leaders is providing 18 months of coaching services* to Zuni CR Church as an Ebenezer-of-service memorial of our first decade anniversary. The purpose of the coaching partnership is to assist the congregation in reaching clear future direction in ministry. Timothy Eisenga, the church's director of discipleship and pastoral care, is lead facilitator. "The goal is relationships toward discipleship," he says. "Our church began a visioning process a few years ago, but was struggling with how to move forward through the process."

With Ascending Leaders' help, the church is making progress: they have developed a Journey Wall reflecting on their congregation's history and identified unique strengths that point to a clear direction for the next chapter of their church life. "It involves just being a genuine, authentic Christian who gets to build relationships that will draw others to Christ," says Eisenga. "We desire to grow Zuni disciples of Christ who mature into laborers and leaders for the Kingdom of God to expand across Zuni."



Tim Eisenga and family

Engaging the Community

"Together are seeking God's leading and best," says Eisenga. The vision team and council, as well as congregation-wide involvement in the vision process is giving Zuni CR Church strength to obey God's leading. "We desire to grow disciples who are not self-centered but striving to live a more public faith," adds Eisenga. "To grow a public faith, we need to have authentic relationships." They recognize that to accomplish this, they will need to get out of their social and spiritual

comfort zones. The Journey Wall revealed that in the past, the church grew cautious after facing opposition from people of the native religion. "We pray the church members continue to grow and intentionally seek relationships with



"We are the Church Ministering"

1. Minister to others while interacting with the community
2. Build relationships that are loving and Christlike
3. Be authentic and intentional with others
4. Grow as disciples, reflecting Christ in every aspect of life



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DISCIPLE FORWARD
Workshops to equip churches and leaders for making disciples

DISCIPLE FORWARD	DISCIPLE FORWARD: GOING DEEPER	REGISTER TODAY!
Thursday, April 28	Thursday, May 12	Visit ascendingleaders.eventbrite.com or email cathy@ascendingleaders.org .
Christ Church Sugar Land, TX 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Fuller Theological Seminary Houston, TX 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	

both Christians and nonbelievers,” Eisenga says. “We believe God wants to spread His glory throughout Zuni. We want to clarify and renew our vision for the future that we reach new people, train them in the faith, equip them, empower them, and see God’s Kingdom grow as more grow in Christ.” Ascending Leaders will guide the church’s vision team as they determine objectives for the next 12 months.

The Importance of Coaching

Eisenga encourages others to consider getting Ascending Leaders’ coaching support. “Pray about it,” he says. “If God leads you, then you will be able to learn from others’ experiences as they make disciples of Christ, too. This can have a positive impact on your own discipleship efforts empowered by the Spirit.” He has also joined AL’s newly formed DiscipleForward learning community, where over

20 discipleship leaders nationwide share ideas and encourage one another online.

Throughout the process, their obedience and trust in God is allowing Him to work through the members of their congregation. “Everything is done for God’s glory. It’s not about me or other staff,” says Eisenga. “We want to be building disciples of Christ who are more and more like Him, which will expand the Kingdom of God here in Zuni.”

Eisenga and his wife Chelsea have four children - Jeremiah, Grace, Adriel, and Caleb. The family has lived in Zuni for eight years.

To inquire about coaching for your church, contact cathy@ascendingleaders.org.

* Coaching provided through a partnership with Faith Formation Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church NA and the Helm Foundation.