



Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna Ave, Sunland CA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A few months ago, I, and two members of our Presbytery had the opportunity to visit South Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. While there we were inspired and transformed by the work we witnessed. Firebird Inc., and South Presbyterian Church has truly embraced what it means to be the Church in this century. They have heard the whispers and calls of the Holy Spirit and have adventured boldly into being leaders in the Church of tomorrow. No longer, can we assume people are going to seek out a Church on Sunday mornings. The Church of tomorrow is not confined to Sunday morning worship. In order for Churches to survive and be relevant we need to be entering into hospitals, restaurants, movie theatres, retirement homes, exercise groups, non-profits. We need to be seeing our lives as a form of worship and not something that happens one hour a week. We need to be engaging in worship in new and innovative ways. Firebird Inc., South Presbyterian Church, and the Acts of Faith Community model does this.

Prior to visiting Firebird Inc, and South Presbyterian Church, our Church, had been hearing the same whispers and movement of the Holy Spirit inviting us to be more present in our community, but we were struggling on how to implement this new call. The examples from South Presbyterian Church, have helped us move forward. Our Church governing board has been reading, Pastor Deb's book, The Church Has Left the Building which has provided us with language and examples of how to embrace the Holy Spirit's new call. We are now no longer entrapped by our Church Building. We are not planning on selling our building (at least not at this time), that's not what South Presbyterian Church, Firebird and Pastor Deb's book is about. It is about being the Church and heading the call of the Great Commission in this day and age. It is about taking inventory of what your Church is really spending its time and energy on and making healthy choices for your church and community so that you might better serve and know God.

If your church is open to the call and new movement of the Holy Spirit, I encourage to work with Firebird Spirit, South Presbyterian Church and Pastor Deb. Working with them has empowered our congregation and Presbytery in new and exciting ways. Not only are we starting to see joy in our Church again, we are also starting to see new relationships and discipleship opportunities forming with our community beyond Sunday mornings. If you are open to the Holy Spirit's invitation to being Church in a new and exciting way but aren't quite sure of what the next step is, I encourage you to enter into relationship with Firebird Inc., South Presbyterian Church and Acts of Faith Community. This relationship has been a wonderful blessing to our congregation, and Presbytery and I believe it will be for your Church as well!

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Arlo Tysinger
Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church