

Fairlington's Frequently Asked Questions about Next Level Innovations (NLI)

1. What is NLI?

It is a district program that helps strong congregations like ours take next steps in effectiveness and outreach to accomplish our mission.

2. Who gets to vote on approving our innovations at the Church Conference on Nov. 28 at 7:30 pm?

All who are members of the church and who are present at the Church Conference. Everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions.

3. Who controls how we proceed with the work of the innovations, our church or the district?

If we vote to adopt the innovations, the work of discernment through task force groups, committees and all other teams will be guided by the Holy Spirit and the vision we have for our church. The district will be here to support us along this two year process.

4. If there is burn-out among some of our leader, as the report suggests, then why are we being asked to organize five new leadership teams?

The five innovations were set up to parallel our strategic goals and our building renovation process. We already have teams in place and have been starting the work in three of these areas. There will be opportunities for new leaders who feel called to work in any of these ministry groups.

5. How strictly do we have to follow the details in the innovations?

There is flexibility in the deadlines, the books we choose to read, and the outcomes we plan for ourselves. While the district will be in close contact, the details help us be accountable to ourselves.

6. How much does it cost?

\$2,500 over three years. We are in our second year and have paid \$1500. If we approve going forward, we will pay \$500 next year. The total cost of the program, covered by district funds and grants, is over \$10,000.

7. What is the role of the mentor?

If we decide to accept the innovations, The Rev. Brian Brown, lead pastor at Woodlawn-Faith UMC, will be available to us as a resource and support. He will be accessible on the phone and will be on site when we need him and as his schedule allows.