

At our Church Conference on November 6th, one of the goals we set was to start a contemporary worship service by the 2nd quarter of 2025. I thought I would share a little bit about what the goal entails. As you may remember, we sought out a pastor who could help us connect with people Catalina is not presently serving. That is a piece of Pastor Kelli's work. The contemporary service goal is not presently connected to Pastor Kelli's work. Instead, initially, this service will be oriented to people already connected to Catalina UMC.

That means that I will be the lead pastor for that service and the service itself will be modeled on the previous service. So, we'll meet in the fellowship hall, have a small praise team, sing contemporary songs, and so forth. But, to do that, we'll need lots of help. Because the service ended in 2022 and has not been reestablished until now, a lot of the infrastructure that made that service happen is not in place.

Mariana and I met the other day to talk through the kinds of help we will need to get the service going. For instance, we will need a sound technician, greeters, readers, someone to run PowerPoint, people to set up and clear up fellowship time. We might need to hire some additional staff or find volunteers to help out with nursery care. We will need to locate or purchase equipment like speaker monitors and a camera for recording/livestream. Hopefully, that is enough for you to get the idea.

What I need now is information. If you are one of those people who have been waiting for the service to return, I need to know who you are. In addition to the things I just mentioned, we also need to have an idea of who will attend the service. I would like to get a list made up of those people so that I can email out updates and information as we work on this. As always, of course, we will need financial support. If you are interested in the service and have not been giving to the church lately, I encourage you to fill out a pledge card. We do not have budget resources at this time. Those will come as we continue to flesh out the details.

One last note on something related to infrastructure. The church has been operating on one service for a while now. When we move back to two, there will be some disruption as we look at the worship times. I have not thought about this enough, but I do know that the previous contemporary service was at 9 a.m. and the current traditional service was at 11 a.m. That is likely the schedule we will follow but it is a little early to say that definitively. Either way, when we add another service, we should expect to be changing Sunday School times, rehearsal times (on Sunday), and service times.

I hope I have given you a basic idea of what starting another service entails. I ask you to pray that we find the help and resources we need. If you are going to attend and/or can help out, I look forward to hearing from you. My email address is: mike@catalinamethodist.org. Thank you ahead of time!