

History of Calvary/New Hope Partnership

Sept. 2015 – Pastor Anne Scalfaro from Calvary Baptist and Pastor Eugene Downing from New Hope Baptist meet at the Crosswalking Initiative of the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains. Revs. Downing and Scalfaro beginning meeting monthly together to get to know one another and discuss a potential partnership with Calvary and New Hope to work on racial reconciliation in Denver. Those monthly meetings continue today, and a strong collegial friendship has formed between Revs. Downing and Scalfaro.

Nov. 6, 2016 – First joint congregational luncheon held at New Hope Baptist Church. Revs. Downing and Scalfaro introduce the idea of a congregational partnership and round table discussions with members of CBC and NHBC include topics such as law enforcement and community relations, affordable housing and homelessness, education, and mental health and healing. Over 150 people, with equal representation from both churches, attend this inaugural meeting.



Feb. 26, 2017 – Second joint congregational luncheon held at New Hope Baptist Church.

Based on the discussions at the first meeting, the round table conversations focused on two more narrowly-focused areas: affordable housing and education. Current statistics related to race and affordable housing and education were shared, as were people's personal stories and experiences. Names were taken of those interested in serving on a joint Leadership Team for this partnership.

July 26, 2017 – First meeting of the CBC & NHBC Leadership Team. Introductions were made between the lay members of each church serving on the team, then plans began to take shape for the next congregational gathering. The Leadership Team narrowed the focus of our advocacy work to education. This Leadership Team continues to meet, even as the members serving on it have varied.

Oct. 15, 2017 – Third joint congregational luncheon held at Calvary Baptist Church. The luncheon was entitled *Getting Educated about Education in Colorado...and working together to make a difference for Colorado kids!* The luncheon included panelists: Roy Smith (Family Liaison for special populations, equity, and diversity education with Aurora Public Schools); Jennifer Bacon (running for Denver School Board; a former teacher, school administrator, lawyer, and community organizer); Melissa Browne (Chief of Staff for Teach for America Colorado); Melissa Mouton (founded DPS charter school, 5280 High School; was Dean of Instruction at the Contemporary Learning Academy with Denver Public Schools, leading teachers in implementing Project-Based Learning in DPS). From these current educators and related professionals, we learned about their experiences and challenges around closing the achievement gap and ensuring all children get a quality education in Colorado, particularly as it relates to the hurdles

and challenges that children from rural areas and of lower socio-economic backgrounds face in our Colorado public schools. We began to discern how our two churches can make a difference around supporting students, families, and educators.

Dec. 3, 2017 – Joint Congregational Event: Curious Theatre Company’s play, *BLACK.*, at New Hope Baptist, followed by a community discussion led by donnie I. betts, renowned black artist and activist. Revs. Downing and Scalfaro were part of the panel discussion. *BLACK.* was written by Lamaria Aminah and was born of her involvement with Black Lives Matter 5280 and her desire to articulate a common problem she saw in our country – that we don’t know how to talk about race.

Feb. 16, 2018 – CBC and NHBC receive a Pueblo Legacy Grant through ABCRM (American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains)

March 24, 2018 – Joint Congregational Viewing of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. An educational learning forum was held the Sunday prior to this Saturday viewing at New Hope Baptist.

April 29, 2018 – Fourth Joint Congregational Luncheon at Calvary Baptist Church. This luncheon was a key step in beginning our partnership with Denver Public Schools (DPS), with the long-term goal of CBC and NHBC adopting a school together. We learned about opportunities to engage with Denver Public Schools, including tutoring students, helping with hospitality for parent/teacher home visits, and working on special DPS group projects together. The following people from DPS shared with us about volunteer opportunities: Theresa Becker (Exec. Director of the Office of Family and Community Engagement with DPS); David Portee (Senior Manager of Program Series of the Office of Family and Community Engagement with DPS); Iesha Mitchell (Manager of Academic Partnerships and Family Empowerment for the Office of Family and Community Engagement with DPS); Brenda Vasquez (DPS volunteer coordinator); Gary Cooper (Director of College Readiness Systems, Advanced Placement (AP) - Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) - International Baccalaureate (IB); Elizabeth Way (Community Engagement Manager, Reading Partners Colorado).

Summer 2018 – Phone Conversations with CBC/NHBC Leadership Team with Reading Partners, AVID, FACE, and other DPS entities and people.

Summer 2018 – Phone Conversations with Colorado Nonprofit Association for an article they are writing about Calvary and New Hope. Anne Scalfaro & Eugene Downing.

Summer 2018 – Phone Conversations with New Baptist Covenant leadership. Anne Scalfaro & Eugene Downing. See newbaptistcovenant.org for more information.

July 24, 2018 – Joint Calvary/New Hope Staff Gathering at Calvary. Our ministerial staffs got together for 3 hours to get to know one another and discuss the partnership and the meaning of racial reconciliation.

August 23, 2018 – Joint Calvary/New Hope Leadership Team Conference Call. To discuss DPS (Denver Public Schools) volunteer options.

October 15-18, 2019 – New Baptist Covenant (NBC) Summit in Atlanta, GA. Anne Scalfaro & Eugene Downing attend summit and lead communion together in one of the worship services. Learn more about NBC and decide to take information back to Calvary and New Hope and the Leadership Team to pursue becoming “covenant partners.” See newbaptistcovenant.org for more information.



October 24, 2018 – Conference call with CBC/NHBC Leadership Team and DPS para-organization POWER LUNCH. Discussed whether this could be the viable partnership for our two churches with Denver Public Schools – specifically Stedman Elementary School (2940 Dexter St, Denver, CO 80207). Conversation went very well.

November 1, 2018 – Anne Scalfaro & Eugene Downing met at Stedman Elementary with DPS coordinators (Brenda Vasquez & Theresa Becker), Michael Atkins (Principle Resident of Stedman Elementary), and Katie Wienecke (Power Lunch Coordinator) to discuss POWER LUNCH partnership. Decided to move forward.

November 2018 – Eugene Downing and Anne Scalfaro start having meetings to discuss doing a podcast on Race and Faith.

November & December 2018 – Calvary and New Hope Recruitment of Volunteers for POWER LUNCH program. See below for information.

Exciting Announcement from our Calvary / New Hope Leadership Team:

After months of discussion and discernment with various tutoring opportunities with Denver Public Schools, **Calvary and New Hope are pleased to announce a joint partnership with [POWER LUNCH](#) Stedman Elementary** (2940 Dexter St, Denver, CO 80207). This is an opportunity for Calvary members and New Hope members to build relationships as we seek to be a part of the work of racial reconciliation in Denver through engagement with our community.

What is POWER LUNCH?

An opportunity for 30 Calvary and New Hope volunteers to join together each Friday to read with a classroom of 3rd grade children at Stedman Elementary. Each volunteer will be paired with a child, and all the pairs will be reading in the same space at the same time. Learn more [here](#).

When and Where is POWER LUNCH?

Every other Friday* from 9:30-10:30 am at [Stedman Elementary](#) (2940 Dexter St, Denver, CO 80207).

*Every other Fridays from Jan. 11 – May 3, 2019 (with occasional weeks off for school breaks and testing weeks)

(Note: even though it’s called POWER LUNCH, it is not over the lunch hour.)

What do POWER LUNCH volunteers do?



Read with a 3rd grader for 45 min every other week, building a relationship with them and being a positive mentor in their life.

Do I have to have special skills to be a POWER LUNCH volunteer?

No, you just have to be passionate about reading and about relationship-building with the child. You will not be teaching literacy skills, but simply listening and helping a child as they read to you. The most important thing is that you make a consistent commitment to be present with your child each week, or every other week – depending on what volunteer option you pick.

What is the time commitment?

Every Other Week for 45 minutes. *Keeping the best interest of the child in mind, consistency and commitment are very important; if you are unable to commit to being present each week or every week, please do not volunteer.* There will be other opportunities to volunteer in the future if this commitment is not possible for you right now. It is okay if you will be gone on occasion for travel or illness, but not frequently. If you will be absent you can find a replacement within our POWER LUNCH team of volunteers, or POWER LUNCH will work with you to find a replacement for that day.

When do I sign up?

Today! ASAP...training begins in December. After a long search to find the right tutoring opportunity – we are quickly working to get this up and running.

How do I sign up?

- E-mail Pastor Anne and Christine Flug
 - Calvary is responsible for 12 - 15 volunteers, and New Hope needs the same.
- Fill out this volunteer application background check form for DPS (if you have already filled this out in the last 6 months, please disregard) and send the form and a copy of your picture ID to the address/email indicated on the form.
- Attend **ONE** of these POWER LUNCH volunteer trainings:
 - Friday, Dec. 14 – 9:30-10:30 am (location: New Hope)
 - Friday, Jan. 4 – 9:30-10:30 am (location: New Hope)

What if I am not sure about this or am on the fence about volunteering?

- If you have concerns about your schedule or the time commitment, please talk with Pastor Anne.
- If you are wondering whether this is something you would be good at – the answer is YES! Being a positive presence in a child's life is something we can all do. You do not have to be a "good reader" or a "teacher" to volunteer. This is not tutoring, but listening to a child as they read to you.
- If you are thinking you are overcommitted in other areas, please consider prioritizing this opportunity. Calvary's partnership with New Hope is growing and this is a critical way that we are a positive witness for unity and reconciliation in the divisive climate in our city and country. We need you!
- Think of this as a great way to serve alongside other Calvary members and get to know members of New Hope, while also impacting a child's life. Because all volunteers meet at the same time and place, there are natural opportunities to grab a cup of coffee and conversation before or after the reading time with another volunteer or two.

December 14, 2018 and January 4, 2019 – POWER LUNCH Training Dates at New Hope Baptist Church.

January 11, 2019 – POWER LUNCH Reading Program begins at Stedman Elementary School!

Ms. Dawn Romero's Third Grade Class. Pictures here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KnUHALYeOX1hagROL_0oI5FNZ7APcGZ1?usp=sharing

Calvary's volunteers include: Leigh Bessey, Norma Briola, Margie Jonell, Amy Kehew, Beth Kieft, John Kron, Kathy Kron, Cathy O'Brien, Cindy Ponikvar, Anne Scalfaro, Damon Scalfaro, Lorene Walker, Norma Wick, Susan Wirt



Enews Coverage:

POWER LUNCH Reading Program Off to a Great Start!

After months of discussion and discernment with various opportunities within Denver Public Schools, Calvary and New Hope are pleased to announce that we began our partnership with Ms. Romero's 3rd grade class at Stedman Elementary School in Denver, Colorado on Friday, January 11. This opportunity allows Calvary members and New Hope members to build relationships as part of the work of racial reconciliation through engagement with our community.

The [POWER LUNCH program](#) unites 30 Calvary and New Hope volunteers every other Friday to read with a classroom of 3rd graders. Each volunteer pair (one Calvary volunteer and one New Hope volunteer) is paired with a child, allowing us to model relationship building across generations and diversities. We had a wonderful first reading and "get to know" you session last Friday.

Calvary's volunteers include: Leigh Bessey, Norma Briola, Margie Jonell, Amy Kehew, Beth Kieft, John Kron, Kathy Kron, Cathy O'Brien, Cindy Ponikvar, Anne Scalfaro, Damon Scalfaro, Lorene Walker, Norma Wick, and Susan Wirt. (Calvary also has another volunteer, Becky Whitaker, volunteering with Reading Partners, which was the first partnership Calvary was exploring with New Hope. We are grateful for Becky's involvement as well!)

Interested in POWER LUNCH or want more information about the Calvary/New Hope Partnership and/or Leadership Team? Email [Chris Flug](#) or [Pastor Anne](#).

February 12, 2019 – Joint Leadership Team Meeting for CBC/NHBC at Calvary to discuss moving forward with Covenant of Action as well as other future plans.

NOTE: All throughout the above timeline, Pastors Anne Scalfaro and Eugene Downing are meeting once a month.

Future Plans for Partnership

- **Sat., Mar. 9 – 9:00 a.m. – Women's Day Brunch at New Hope Baptist Church** (3701 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205). The Women of New Hope Baptist Church have invited the Women of Calvary to join them at their 67th Annual Women's Day Brunch. The brunch, which is open to the larger community, will feature a panel discussion on the topic of *Women Working in Traditionally Male-Dominated Roles*. There is no cost to attend the brunch; however there will be a free-will offering. We are hoping there will be a strong response from our Calvary women at this event; considering going with a group of friends from your class, circle, or small group.

Please RSVP to the office ([303-757-8421](tel:303-757-8421)/cbc@calvarydenver.org) by Monday, March 4th to let us know you are attending so that Pastor Anne can let New Hope know how many to expect.

- **Joint Women's Choir for New Hope's Women's Day Weekend**

- **Women's Community Choir Rehearsal Schedule**

Thank you for your interest in the 2019 Woman's Day Community Choir and WELCOME!!!

We will minister in song at New Hope Baptist Church's Women's Day Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 9 (9 AM) & Women's Day Service on Sunday, March 10 (10:45 AM).

Colors are Navy, Sky Blue & Gold.

A collection of lyrics & recordings of WCC music will be provided in the coming weeks in time to put it in your "shondo" BEFORE rehearsals! You can sign-up by emailing nhbcworship14@gmail.com and a link will be sent. Our scheduled rehearsals are listed below. SPREAD THE WORD! Thank you in advance! ~ Joslyn

2019 NHBC Women's Day Community Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

Tuesday, 2/19 @ 7 PM

Tuesday, 2/26 @ 7 PM

Tuesday, 3/5 @ 7 PM

Thursday, 3/7 @ 7 PM

Note: All rehearsals are at New Hope BC (3701 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205) and will begin ON TIME. Please be in the room PROMPTLY and prepared to start at the aforementioned time. Please & Thank You!

New Hope Annual Women's Day
Community Choir
Joslyn Ford Keel, Guest Director
March 9 & 10, 2019

- **Joint worship experience on Sunday March 10, 2019 at New Hope Baptist Church**
- **Sun., Mar. 10 – 10:45 a.m. – Calvary Joins New Hope for Worship** (3701 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205). As Calvary and New Hope deepen our partnership, this will be an exciting day as our congregations join together for the first time for a shared worship experience. As part of their Women's Day Weekend focusing on Deborah's story in the book of Judges, [Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque](#) (a friend/colleague of Pastor Anne and Pastor Mary) will be preaching and a combined women's choir will be singing. Regular church school will take place at Calvary from 9-10 a.m., then you are encouraged to carpool to New Hope with others, or if you would like to reserve a spot on the church van please RSVP by calling the church office (303-757-8421/cbc@calvarydenver.org); space on the van is limited and seats will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. Please note: there will be no morning worship at Calvary on this Sunday, as this is a church-wide worship event.
- Joint Good Friday worship service on April 19, 2019 at Calvary Baptist Church
- Exploring partnership with New Baptist Covenant (<http://newbaptistcovenant.org/>)
- Podcast with Pastors Eugene Downing & Anne Scalfaro on Race

- Pastors Eugene Downing and Anne Scalfaro asked to be keynote speakers at the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Luncheon at the American Baptist Mission Summit in June 2019 in Virginia Beach, VA