

## Dick Emery

**Name**

Dick Emery

**Consulting Specialties**

TIPs Pastor

July of 2007 I finished a 22 year pastorate in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.. My wife and I felt strongly that our next steps in ministry would lead us in a different direction from another long term pastorate. As we evaluated things we both agreed that my ministry gifts were as strong as ever, I was blessed with good health and energy, and that I had a wealth of experience to share in some form of local church ministry. The only thing I didn't have, since I was nearing retirement age, was time to commit to a long-term pastorate.

It was during that time that I was contacted by Larry McCain and Ron Greeno about a new ministry that NCS was launching called TIPs. As Francie and I prayed about it, we became convinced that this was God's next step for us. It seemed tailor-made for the season of life and ministry that we were entering.

We began our first TIPs assignment in September 2008 in Corvallis, Oregon. Over ten months with that congregation, God gave us the opportunity to be healing agents in a church that had been deeply hurt by a very nasty split. We saw God do some wonderful things in Corvallis. I think the highlight of the time there was the "History Night". We saw hope rekindled.

From Corvallis we went to Portage Indiana in November 2009 to a church of about 1000 in attendance. The long-term pastor had just retired from a 22-year pastorate. Naturally the congregation was grieving. Over the ten months in Portage we were able the lead the church to new anticipation as well as resolve a major conflict in the church. In addition, we concentrated on leadership development, which was a glaring need in the church.

In October 2011 a door opened to work with a church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Again, this was following a long-term pastorate of 17 years. The church had become divided in the leaving of the former pastor. Healing and steps toward refocusing became the major TIPs task in Sioux Falls. God helped us once again to move the church toward renewed unity. When the vote was taken on a new pastor there were only seven no's. This was the strongest vote this church had ever given a new pastor. It was quite a change from the vote taken the year before which was barely 50%.

Next month Francie and I will begin our fourth assignment in Reading, Pennsylvania. We are looking forward to being a part of what God has planned for that congregation. We thank God for the opportunity to serve the Kingdom through TIPs.