

Introducing “Lydia” — a.k.a. Newberg Friends Church

Lydia, a woman in her 40s and comfortable in her skin, is part of a family well known and important in her community for many years. Her attire is simple and often casual, but she dresses up when she wants to. Employed in a local non-profit ministry, Lydia cares deeply about meeting the needs of people in her local community and expressing the love of Christ to them. She feels the same passion for people in other parts of the world and has in years past been an active supporter of foreign missionary efforts. Distracted by other priorities in the last few years, Lydia now feels a call to renew her international interest.

As an introvert, Lydia feels comfortable at home. It is open and peaceful, a happy place, but in need of some updating and repairs. She graciously welcomes neighbors and others into her home but lately has felt drawn to step out into her community and meet new people, including some of the newer residents of varied ethnic backgrounds.

In the past year Lydia went through a season of great trauma. While driving on an errand her car suddenly collided with another car. She was surprised and dismayed to discover the other driver was her own sister. Both continue to experience pain and inconvenience during the necessary recovery. A particularly sad part of this event for Lydia is that both she and her sister consider the other primarily responsible for the collision, resulting in a breach in their relationship.

The trauma has pushed Lydia to draw more deeply on her spiritual resources, and she feels renewed commitment to the Lord and a revitalized faith. While she learns to deal with matters she once depended on others to do for her, she looks to her future with strong hope and expectation of new fruitfulness in her life.