

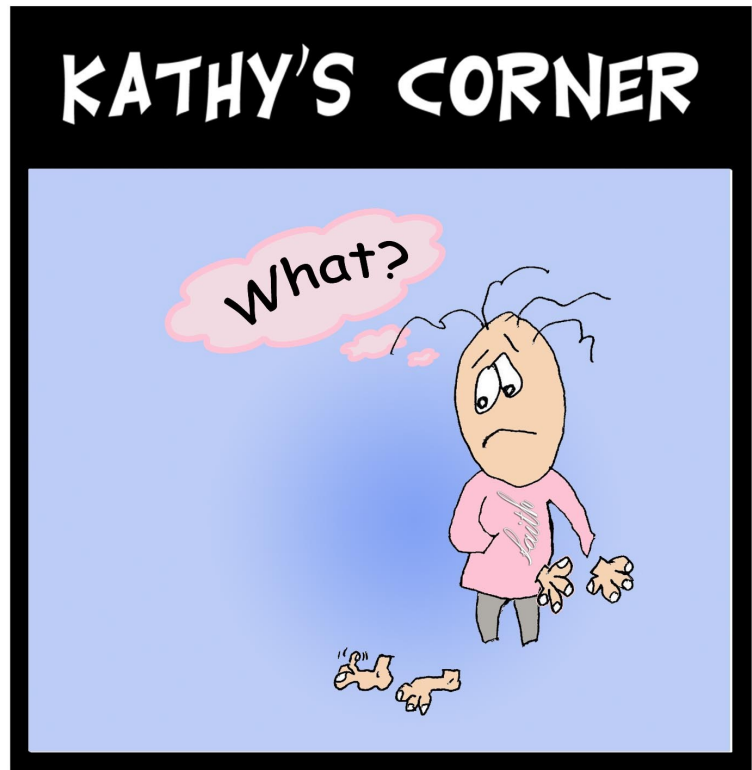
More than once recently Paige has referred to NUMA as organic. While I can't pretend to know which of the many definitions of organic were actually in her mind, I will choose one for the purpose of this article. Organic can mean having systematic coordination of parts: organized (an *organic* whole) – according to Merriam-Webster. I think this best fits what a local church should be.

I think about our military and its many branches. If one enlists, he must choose where he wishes to serve, but the ultimate purpose of each branch is probably not that different; each branch does its part, has its missions, and each part has one leader over all—the commander in chief. The head of all true local churches is Jesus Christ. He may have different missions and different ways of working in different churches, but the ultimate goal should be the same for all.

(“May Your kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”) For the local church to function organically—as a system with coordinated parts, the whole local body (of Christ) must be headed in the same direction. The head can't be about one thing and the body about another. Each member of His body must be headed in the same direction. Hands don't go east while the feet go west. Jesus is the head. He was and is always about doing the Father's will.

It is important to know that we each have a part, **“What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, or another tongue, or an interpretation. Everything is to be done for building up.”** (1 Corinthians 14:26 CSB) The Holy Spirit takes what is His (Jesus's) and reveals it to us. **He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.** (John 16:14 CSB) **We live in obedience to and belief in each revelation He gives.** This is where faith comes in. Among other things, the scriptures are both an inventory and a sure source of what is His and what is available to us. The Holy Spirit of Christ shows us life, the truth, the way. We also have prophecies, dreams and visions, and words we “hear.” All of these must line up with the scriptures. Remember, the devil knows scripture, and tries to get us to go against God's intentions by using it as he did in tempting Christ in the wilderness. The devil is the master of deception and the author of heresies. He is the ultimate manipulator of the human nature—he has the right bait for each of us. This is why it is so important to walk in the spirit and deny the flesh.

When we think about being the body of Christ, do we really believe He is with us. He said that where two or more are gathered together in His name that He is there! He doesn't lie. Earlier this week a song came to mind. I couldn't remember all the words, so I got help from YouTube. I knew the Spirit was in it as I sang it. I think it reflects on what a local church is:



*Family Song / I believe in Jesus*

Here we are gathered together as a family.  
Bound as one lifting up our voices to the King of Kings.  
We cry, "Abba, Father, worthy is your name.  
Abba, Father, worthy is your name."

Here we are singing together as a family.  
Bound as one lifting up our voices to the King of Kings.  
We cry, "Abba, Father, holy is your name.  
Abba, Father, holy is your name."

I believe in Jesus.  
I believe He is the Son of God.  
I believe He died and rose again.  
I believe He came for us all,  
And I believe He is here now,  
Standing in our midst,  
Here with the power to heal now,  
And the grace to forgive.

Maybe when we think about our church, we can realize that He really is here when we meet together,  
and the last verse would speak the reality:

I believe in You Lord.  
I believe You are the Son of God.  
I believe You died and rose again.  
I believe You came for us all.  
And I believe You are here now,  
Standing in our midst,  
Here with the power to heal now,  
And the grace to forgive.

**He came for us all. The harvest is ready. The laborers are few!**