

VCI Vision & Values Workshop ~ 24 Oct 2018

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” - Proverbs 29:18

“A vision is a clearly articulated, results-oriented picture of a future you intend to create. It is a dream with direction.” - Jesse Stoner Zemel

Purpose of This Session

1. to create the beginnings of a vision statement of the congregation
2. . . . for a small team of leaders to refine in the next 4 to 6 weeks

The vision statement will function as the basis of decision-making and ministry assessment.

Session Objectives

1. Listen for God about our future
2. Dream together about who God wants our congregation to be in our community
3. Develop the seeds of God’s vision of our church for the future

Four Components of a New Life-Cycle (VRMS)

(We did an exercise during the VCI Pre-Consultation Workshop in which we assessed where TUMC is in the life-cycle of a typical mainline church. We determined that we are a bit over the hill and could use a bit of rejuvenation.)

#1 Fresh VISION for the future

- Not a mission statement (we have one of those - “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”). A mission statement is a brief declaration of what we do to realize our vision.

Mission - what we do. Broad, brief, biblical statement of what God wants us to accomplish. See Matthew 28:19-20

Vision - who we are called to be. Clear, compelling word picture of God’s future for the congregation as we believe and desire it to be.

- A vision describes who God wants us to be and who we want to be.

- Will take asking God for a fresh “burden” for our surrounding community

- Values need to be reshaped through preaching and training (we will not naturally become outward-focused if we haven’t been in the past)

Homework Assignment #1: look over examples of vision statements by others-- churches, corporations, organizations, etc.

#2 RELATIONSHIPS that embrace new people (those not already inside the church)

#3 MINISTRIES/Programs that focus on outreach (these should be an extension of our discipleship)

#4 STRUCTURES that create accountability.

- Assessment

- Willingness to let go of what doesn’t work (even if it is “the way we’ve always done it”)

As expected, by this time, with the discussion weighted toward outreach, the concern was raised that we do not neglect our current congregation, as if outward focus prevents inward care. This is not the case. However, unless a church pushes a little harder on outreach it will settle on the nurture of its current congregation and neglect outreach almost entirely. - MaM

Prayer Walk

This exercise consists of taking 30 minutes to pray over, reflect, and consider the following question:

Considering the surrounding community, who do I sense God wants this congregation to be to this community? What do I see around the outside of this church? What do I believe God sees around our church?

Impressions, Discernments, Discoveries, Observations, etc. written on flip chart sheets (as written):

River Raisin / Red Mill Pond - activities
Softball field
5 houses touching our property
Masonic Hall
Frosty Ice Cream
Lutheran Church
Catholic Church
Pizza & Jerry's groceries
wild Life visiting every day
Preschool here

Providing programs & activities for young fams & children
Those who can no longer attend - need our love & care
Working w/other churches & groups to meet needs in Tec.

If you build it--they will come ... finish backstop for ballfield! maybe add lts
Get rid of stupid sign
Do not force neighbor to remove fence
I love our parking lot

Source for caring for others
Place to come in times of need
a place whe(re) anyone can come to share whatever and know that God is there and he will share/show the way--answer prayers

People walking their dogs
Lots of older people / with fear of getting old
students walking to/from school
many families Totally satisfied w/o God
An old style church (ours)
Part of our property, empty -- Garden for Veggies

Something going on all the time and the community will know what & when

people with teeth missing (Fresh Food Saturdays)

People who need transportation
Single mothers & fathers who need support
Youth - what do they need?

N of church: open-ended opportunity & possibility thru new relationships
S. E. W. of church: opportunities for new & renewed relationships by re-introducing ourselves to the existing community
Relationships in which we reflect Christ to others
Community within caring for & nurturing each other (relationship)

people who are vulnerable; food, housing, community scarcity (lack of relationships), children/students

Homework Assignment #2: continue to take note of what I see out in the surrounding community. What do I see that should be different?

Vision + Leadership close the gap between

- a. the world as it is (e.g. hungry people)
- b. the world as it should be (e.g. no hungry people)

Importance of Vision

A vision . . .

- answers “why” to what we do
- energizes
- brings urgency to risk-taking (gives reasons to take risks)
- legitimizes leadership (decisions become based in the vision rather than a leader’s personal preference)
- energizes leadership
- sustains ministry
- inspires generosity in all types of giving (people may give to keep the lights on and salaries paid out of obligation; people want to give to a cause or a purpose)

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” - Isaiah 54.2

The “Vision Intersection Profile”



When the congregation’s and leadership’s passion correspond to a need within the surrounding community, then the shared vision becomes obvious.

Core Values

- Shape behavior, decision, priorities, etc.
- Are natural to a group
- Are apparent to others
- Guide behavior
- Can be chosen
- Root of beliefs and behaviors

Exercise: Identifying our Most Important Values

Using the document entitled, “What is Most Important: A Beginning List of Values”, which lists 96 values (such as “accountability” and “respect”), each person in the room selected 10 values that they believed were most important to our congregation at TUMC. The list of 10 was then reduced to 5 and then to the 3 most important values. Then everyone’s picks were consolidated and the top 4 values were identified.

The top 4 values the group believed are held by the congregation are:

- #1 - Helping Others
- #2 - Prayer
- #3 - Compassion
- #4 - Love

Drafting a Vision Statement

The next task is to begin developing a vision statement that informed by the work we did at the vision & values workshop.

Our vision statement will ***describe who we will be when we live out our values marvelously well.***

Homework Assignment #3: Talk to at least 1 other person about this workshop experience and the top 4 values. Invite them to the next session.

The VCI Vision & Values Workshop was led by our VCI directive coach, Rev. Lisa Batten, and attended by Paula Bowman, Susan & Duane Koppelman, Carol & Stan Legenc, Ed Follas, Mike Morast, and Mark Miller.