

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church

2018-2019 Visioning the Future



Priorities, Initiatives, and Considerations for a Sustainable Future

**Respectfully Submitted by the Visioning Committee to the Session on
June 24, 2019**

A Message from the Visioning Committee

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. — Frederick Buechner

As our congregation and community constantly change, our church continues to be blessed with an abundance of gifts, a passion for mission, energy for education, compassion for neighbors, and joyful worship of God. As God lives, so the Spirit invites us into a continuing process of finding and developing our vision for our church in response to God's call. Rumple is blessed with the opportunity to move from our faithful past into a new future by finding places where our gifts and gladness meet the world's hunger and joy.

In the winter of 2018, the Session empowered a "Dream Team" to begin the process of envisioning a strategic plan for the Church's future. During the spring and summer of 2018, the Team conducted interviews with a broad sampling of the congregation. These interviews were designed to determine how the congregation felt about the church and how they thought we might grow in the future. A report on that effort was delivered to the Session in July 2018. After reviewing the Dream Team report, the Session charged a Vision Committee to conduct a more exhaustive analysis of the findings and to develop a strategic plan for the future of the Church.

The Committee met several times during the fall and winter of 2018 and 2019. The first task was to review the Church's Vision and Mission Statements in light of the new data collected in the interviews. We discovered that our Vision Statement required only minor adjustment, whereas our Mission Statement, in support of the Vision Statement, needed more substantive revision. During these discussions the concept of the Four Cornerstones emerged as guiding principles on which the mission of Rumple Church rests. The updated Vision and Mission Statements are:

Vision Statement

*Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church is a **Missional** church; called to **Worship**, empowered to **Serve**, inspiring **Disciples**, creating **Community**.*

Mission Statement

***Worship, Mission, Education, and Community** are the cornerstones of the body of Christ at Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church. We believe that the Holy Spirit calls us:*

*To **Worship**: to respond to God's presence and activity in our lives and in our world by worshipping God together within our Reformed tradition with reverence, humility, awe, wonder, and joy;*

*For **Mission**: to participate in God's work in the world by ministering to the needs within and beyond the High Country and by engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger, and injustice;*

*Through **Education**: to seek from God the transformation and renewal of our minds as we live and grow as disciples who daily journey together in the grace of God;*

*In **Community**: to nurture, support, and guide people through the many seasons of personal and communal life in mutual ministries of care and compassion, sharing joys and sorrows, supporting in times of stress and need, and offering mutual forgiveness and reconciliation.*

Built upon these four cornerstones, Rumble commits to follow Jesus Christ into a sustainable future that reaches far beyond our slate and stone.

On March 31, 2019, four broad-based focus groups consisting of active and affiliate members, and organized under the Four Cornerstones, met for a full afternoon to discuss the programs of the church. Using the SWOT concept of analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats), in-depth reviews of the church's programs were undertaken with the goal of gauging the church's interest and energy for new and different ways that we might live into our vision, mission, and sense of God's call for our church. Over 50 church members participated in these four groups.

The Team met and discussed what happened in each group, and then developed short lists of these ideas for the future. Understanding our charge to update Rumble's Vision and Mission Statement, and to collect these ideas for the future, we have not explored specific details or procedures regarding which ideas to pursue or how resources might be allocated. We believe that important work should occur in the next phase of this process.

Our final report was compiled on June 2, 2019. We submit this report to the church and pray for God's guidance as we continue to consider where and how our deep gladness meets the world's deep hungers.

Yours in Christ,

Kathy Beach, Jim Crowell, Jennie Derby, Maurice Ewing, and Davis Hankins

Ideas for Session Consideration

Worship Cornerstone—(Leader's Note: *This focus group appeared to be very comfortable with the current worship services at Rumble and struggled a bit to suggest changes.*)

- Reconsider how we greet each other in and around worship.
Consider changing the "Meet and Greet" period at the beginning of the service, adding opportunities to meet and greet before the service, etc.
- Increase the visibility of children during worship.
Consider creating a raised surface for them during the children's sermon.
Continue to include them as liturgists, etc.
- Enhance Worship through resources from Montreat.
Consider financial support for adults to attend the Montreat Worship conference

Mission Cornerstone

- Develop connections with organization partners
Improve coordination among regional non-profits, expand participation in mission projects, improve communication with community stakeholders, and open church to groups visiting the area.
- Increase connections between our members and mission efforts
Communicate more often and effectively our efforts at service, reintroduce a church-wide day of service, and consider new opportunities for service.
- Respond directly and proactively to community needs
Explore ways to address poverty, food insecurity, and health crises, e.g., the opioid epidemic, to advocate for increasing the minimum wage and more affordable housing, and to care for the children and elderly in need in our area.

Education Cornerstone

- Direct educational programs at young families
Consider reintroducing a pre-school or parent's morning out program. Consider alternative locations for educational programs and Bible studies.
- Develop educational programs beyond traditional topics
Consider inter-faith explorations, classes for young, new, and/or non-believers, those unfamiliar with the Reformed tradition, etc.
- Continue the Visiting Scholars Program
Consider ways to enhance the educational experience and effectiveness of this program, e.g., by expanding it and/or exploring ways for it to anchor other educational programs.

Community Cornerstone

- Expand the church's visitation ministry in pastoral care
For example, consider reinstituting a Board of Deacons or beginning a Stephen Ministry program.
- Open "Rumple After Dark"
Pursue programs to promote diversity, connect to a broader audience, support mission, education, Presbyterian Church (USA), etc.
- Enhance Young Adult Fellowship
Consider expanding programs, offering child care (e.g., at Salt Shakers), more Campus Outreach, Moveable Feasts, etc.

RECOMMENDATION

The Vision Committee recommends that the Session empower an Implementation Team, consisting of active and engaged church leaders, under the guidance and direction of the Session. And that the Implementation Team be charged with implementing some or all of the ideas included in this report, giving consideration to the financial, space, and staffing implications of implementation.