

Vision 2015 STATEMENT

The following are the goals and objectives, in order of the priority determined by the congregation, of the **Vision 2015 Statement**.

1. Broaden our outreach to the community.

- Event-based outreach events to the wider community, especially those that would attract young families
- Reach out into the community to serve, not to boast
- Create an outreach committee
- Create programs that help us know how to invite a diversity of people to our worship and special events, including those of differing faiths and families with young children
- Reach out to those who have left “The Church” but might like to return
- Use social media to reach more people, especially young families
- Reach out to Hispanic and Native American populations

2. Develop opportunities to create meaningful connections between people in the congregation.

- Connect newer members with established people in the church
- More education about Congregationalism, the structure of the church (SBCC), and the work of the boards and committees
- Create a card ministry
- Host movie/book nights
- ~~Use online programs to solicit food donations for memorial receptions and Congregational Connections-ON HOLD~~

3. Increase spiritual development opportunities.

- More adult education opportunities, some geared towards parents with young families
- Continue to honor the diversity of religious background and experience
- Facilitate more experiences to help make faith real
- More sharing of personal stories via a diversity of channels
- Summer Sunday School
- Have facilitated conversations about same-sex marriages in our church

4. Expand our missions program.

- Project-based mission opportunities (like the soup kitchen last December)
- Share more information about our mission partners
- Have special offerings for specific missions
- Continue invitations to the offering that use specific examples
- Create an **AdultZerve** mission program that provides ongoing mission opportunities
- Look into addressing the affordable housing situation in the county
- Monthly “Dollar Sunday” during which anyone who wants to gives a dollar to a special offering for a specific purpose is invited to do so
- Facilitate an adult foster care facility for low-income senior citizens
- Eliminate the redundancy in our mission statement (making Christ known in our acts and deeds-change to acts and words or deeds and words or word and acts or word and deeds)

5. Enhance our worship and music experiences.

- Sermons that combine scripture and contemporary illustrations
- Continue quiet times at beginning and end of the service
- Continue diversity of music including bluegrass
- More youth involved in worship-greeters and offering collectors
- Have pulpit exchanges to increase ecumenical and interfaith knowledge
- Have a summer choir that would include snow birds
- More object-lessons for youth and children
- ~~Increase the amount of Congregational singing during worship~~
- Create a children’s theater group to present skits on Bible stories during Intergenerational Worship
- Personalize the communion experience by having people come forward on occasion
- ~~Speed up the pace of the hymns~~
- Increase the number of people in the choir

Other Considerations

- The Vision Process identified a need to expand the role of the Church Council from a group that exchanges the information of the boards and committees to a group that has some governing power in the church. This proposal will be given to the Church Council and the next By-Laws Revision Committee for their prayerful consideration.
- The Vision Process identified a need for more space in the coat room. This information will be passed along to the Trustees for their prayerful consideration.
- The Vision Process identified the need for more staff time for the church office to complete special projects. This information was given to the Church Staff Committee which approved an additional four hours of work time for our current office staff.