

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Three priority areas were identified initially by the Strategic Planning Team and approved by Church Council (May 2016). These three areas will receive initial focused attention.

Education: Leadership Development

Worship: Improve Excellence and Energy

Outreach: Facilities Improvement

For each of these three priority areas, a more detailed set of goals and action plans were written. This includes a series of

Key Outcomes - what we want to happen

Action Plans - how we make that happen

Measures of Success - how we determine success

Feedback Loops - accountability

Milestones - timetable for steps along the way

Budget Implications - what funding will be needed

While this publication does not allow for inclusion of all the details, the priority areas and the Key Outcome goals are listed below.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Provide ongoing leadership development and training for all areas of the church utilizing new technologies and platforms

Key Outcome #1: Each area of Saint Paul's Governing Board and Core Ministry Team will have effective leadership

Key Outcome #2: Each active ministry of Saint Paul's UMC will have sufficient volunteers representing a broad spectrum of the congregation serving within their spiritual gift profile.

Key Outcome #3: All Saint Paul's UMC educational programs will be led by motivated and competent teachers.

WORSHIP

Improve the overall energy and excellence of worship

Key Outcome #1: Improve music leadership and presentation at all three services

Key Outcome #2: Develop a visual arts ministry

Key Outcome #3: Create distinction among all worship services to reflect different expressions of our liturgical tradition

OUTREACH

Develop and practice a strong ethos of outreach at Saint Paul's UMC

Key Outcome #1: Improve our facilities for maximum potential and accessibility

Key Outcome #2: Create an Outreach Ministry Team

Key Outcome #3: Expand community partnerships through use of facilities, shared events, and common ministries

CORE VALUES

We will be a community of **joy** that celebrates easily and laughs freely.

We will be a place of **prayer** and dependence on God for direction and guidance.

We will be a community shaped by **scripture, tradition, reason and experience**, and by the Living Word of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

We will be a church that is **humble** in our victories and **honest** in our failures, struggles and doubts. We will be **truthful** with each other and with God.

We will be people who do the **right thing**, even when it is uncomfortable; even when it costs us something.

We will be a church that chooses **love** over hate; **cooperation** over competition; **grace** over grudges.

We will be an **inclusive community** that endeavors to **see** and **nurture** the **good** in all people because all people are created in the image of God and are of infinite sacred worth.

We will be a church that strives for **excellence** in everything we do - because God deserves our very best.



Strategic Plan Summary February 2017

MISSION

The mission of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to be a **faithful community of disciples** who serve as the **heart, hands and feet of Christ** so that **all people come to know the love of God**.

VISION

As a Spirit-formed **living expression of the kingdom of God**, the vision of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to

glorify God wholeheartedly;
grow the community of the faithful and
nurture the faithfulness of that community;
alleviate suffering wherever it is found;
advocate for **social justice**.

STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

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The Strategic Planning Team began our work by studying several documents. These included:

- 2020 Plan for Saint Paul's UMC
- Mission Insite demographic study
- Pennock study of membership/giving at Saint Paul's UMC

In addition, we gathered information at a six-week series during the Fall of 2015 (Saint Paul's Beyond Our Walls) which had wide congregational participation. Conversations with ministry teams, program and support staff, as well as an off-site visit to a vibrant United Methodist Church also provided important input.

Some of the unmet strategic goals of the 2020 Plan:

- hire a full time Music Director
- hire an additional full time minister
- acquire additional property
- develop & finalize plans for facilities improvement
- begin and complete renovation or construction

The team first set out to define a large strategic issue that will help shape our work. This issue is as follows:

To support the mission and vision of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church by creating and sustaining portals of entry so that all people may come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, belong to an energizing community of faith, and become mature disciples of Jesus Christ. These portals of entry include worship, educational opportunities, missions, social justice work and community partnerships.

Finally, the Strategic Planning Team did some examination of our current governance and ministry structure, seeking to find ways to streamline processes of decision making, improve communication between and coordinate efforts of ministry teams and find a body within the church that would be responsible for continual accountability to the Strategic Plan. A proposal for a **Single Board Governing structure** along with a **Core Ministry Team** was offered to and approved by the Church Council. This new structure went into effect January 2017.

Our vision statement defines the following **strategic areas**. Under each of these categories, and in conversation with appropriate staff and lay leadership as well as congregational input from the *Saint Paul's Beyond our Walls* series and *past strategic planning documents*, the team compiled a set of broad goals.

WORSHIP *glorify God wholeheartedly*

Diverse styles of worship that invite all to a deeper relationship with Jesus while energizing all actions of the church

- *Improve the overall energy and excellence of current worship*
- Create distinction between the 8:30 and 11:00 am services to reflect different expressions of our liturgical tradition
- Consider more frequent celebration of Eucharist in sanctuary services
- Create worship experience outside the physical church: prison services, bar bible studies, community, multi-church efforts.
- Investigate and develop worship practices that attract Millennials and Generation X.

OUTREACH *grow the community of the faithful*

Creatively communicate the story of Jesus Christ and the local church

- Expand community partnerships through use of facilities, shared events, and common ministries
- *Facilities Audit and Improvement*
- Increase the use of technology for outreach
- *Develop and operationalize a plan for consistent visitor follow up and movement toward engaged membership*
- Create an Outreach Team that can oversee the marketing of the church to the community
- *Promote small groups that meet in and support midtown businesses*
- Produce a community engagement report that identifies the needs of the community and provides detailed recommendations to meet those needs

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT *nurture the faith of the community*

Provide intentional pathways to fully engaged discipleship and opportunities for spiritual and personal growth for all ages through engaging and ongoing study in a variety of contexts

- Provide ongoing leadership development and training for all areas of the church using new technologies and platforms
- Design and implement Saint Paul's Lakeside Learning Center
- *Offer creative curriculum that can deepen our current offerings and expand our reach beyond the campus*
- *Determine the interest/need for educational classes/activities in the community - Lakeside Learning Center*

MISSIONS *alleviate suffering*

Engage acts of mercy that will alleviate suffering on the local, national and international level.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the current allocation of mission funds and mercy activities
- Expand the Soul Food Ministry to the Lake Ella homeless community
- *Institute an annual Operation Love Your Neighbor event for the local community*
- Embrace 'missional' rather than 'attractational' ecclesiology/model
- *Provide Meaningful Opportunities for Mission for Youth and Children/Intergenerational*
- Intentionally Reconnect with Sister Churches in Haiti and Cuba

SOCIAL JUSTICE *advocate for social justice*

Embody the gospel message that calls us to respect life and work for justice and peace

- Educate congregation on Social Justice and its relationship to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Form a Social Justice Ministry Team/Social Justice Committee
- Establish and Support a Creation Care Team
- Offer SPUMC as a site for AA or NA programs; this could tie into a counseling program