

MUMC Connectionalism Strategy Team

10/17/2021

In Person: Linda Horodenski, Barb Stevens, Liz Shuberte, Dick Vreeland, Andy Bryan, Mary Beth Harper, Becky Strickland

Zoom: Ethan Massey, Will Koehl

Absent: Roxanne Miller, Chessey Brenton, Jim Lange

Three goals are starting to take shape: (Andy)

- 1) A goal aimed toward capitalizing on the **visibility** of Manchester UMC, or said another way, using our position of privilege to connect with the larger church in serving the world around us.
- 2) A goal around **clarifying and aligning** the mission, vision, and values of the congregation and infusing every ministry in the congregation with a commitment to those statements.
- 3) A goal that relates to our **Methodist identity** somehow and that identity plays out in the congregation.

Discussion of next steps:

- Talk about specifics
- 5yr plan – what will things look like in 2026?
- Before 2026 there will be a General Conference that will decide about gay marriages/clergy, denominational ministries, apportionments, special offerings
- Raise awareness about where apportionments go – what difference does it make? – impact
 - General Agencies – UMC designated (many)
 - Advanced Specials – more specific projects
 - Global versus community
- Awareness versus Change? - How live through next 5yrs toward more inclusive future – recognize how change happens
- Education/Awareness -toward goal of increasing engagement
- Advocacy versus Action – focus on congruence
- Maintaining reverence to Methodist past, recognize what’s happening now, and plan for a better future
- Is there a cultural shift from the deep Methodist roots –
 - Wesley focused on challenging/change/innovation for sake of offering Christ to people in the here/now (Wesley ordained ministers against the church oversight; referenced previous Methodist split over slavery for positive change and inclusiveness)

- Connect with other churches around us in sharing identity of inclusion as Methodist –
 - if build community will have larger voice
- Methodism of MUMC – Understand value of connection with other churches in community; need create opportunities to connect and build relationship
 - Invite area churches twice a year without agenda to build relationship (singing, eating, social)
 - Collaborate resources
- Simplifying and align statements (Mission/Vision/welcome) – shorter – eg. “Love God. Love your neighbor.”
- Always advocate for full inclusion – make sure our statements say that
- Visibility – longevity, physical location, size, attitude – watch for ‘Manchester effect’ – look for ways to use that well by giving power away, use privilege to elevate/help
- Why would people in our church not be aware of reputation of “church on the hill”? - potential elitist view from community – to shift that to a positive reputation of inclusive, leadership and service

VISION: We are called to be an inclusive community of people who love Christ deeply, worship him passionately, and serve him boldly.

MISSION: We are called to make a difference for Christ by transforming church and community.

“2021 Plan” Values: The values necessary to successfully accomplish the “2021 Plan” are:

1. Christ focused
2. Shared Accountability
3. Regularly assess progress
4. Celebrate successes and learning
5. Transparent Communication
6. Grow trust and teamwork

Welcome Statement:

We extend God’s love and grace to ALL people. Therefore, as we journey toward a greater understanding of one another, we respect our human family’s diversity of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, family structure, marital status, socioeconomic status, education, political perspective, faith history and life experience.

Next meeting - TBA - look for Doodle