

MUMC Connectionalism Strategy Team

11/10/2021

In Person: Linda Horodenski, Barb Stevens, Dick Vreeland, Andy Bryan,
Becky Strickland, Will Koehl

Zoom: Roxanne Miller, Ethan Massey, Jim Lange, Chessey Brenton,
Mary Beth Harper

Absent: Liz Shuberte

Review: Draft developed by Pastor Andy gleaning perspectives and prior discussions

**DRAFT - Strategic Goals: Connectionalism - DRAFT
- Century 3 Strategic Plan - Manchester UMC - 2021-2026**

1) By 2026, Manchester UMC will clarify and align our mission, our vision, and our values so that each ministry will authentically reflect the identity of the congregation and each member will be equipped to share Manchester UMC's story among our community and across our connection.

A) The Leadership Board will convene a Vision Task Force that will include staff, board members, and laity. This task force will

1. Assess the current public statements of the congregation (Mission, Vision, Welcome) to discern their sufficiency in clearly expressing the mission, vision, values, and identity of Manchester UMC.
2. Reframe and/or recreate these statements as needed, so that they accurately and effectively communicate the congregation's story.
3. Complete their work by January, 2023.

B) As the task force completes their work, the Connectionalism Strategy Team will work with staff to develop a plan for communicating the reframed or recreated statements throughout the congregation, the community, and across the connection.

2) By 2026, it is likely that the United Methodist Church will experience a formal division over the issue of full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. As the denomination divides, Manchester UMC will embrace our role as a leading United Methodist congregation, and affirm our commitment to a hopeful, vibrant, fully inclusive, and thoroughly Methodist ethos in our life together. In doing so, Manchester UMC will

A) Provide learning opportunities, led by the faith formation staff, so the congregation deepens our understanding of our Wesleyan heritage and theology, the work of the general agencies of the United Methodist Church, the significance of the apportionment, and other United Methodist beliefs and practices.

B) Strengthen relationships with United Methodist congregations in our area by regularly convening social, educational, artistic, and other connectional gatherings.

C) Remain faithful to the mission, vision, and values of the congregation as the denomination reforms, to ensure that all are not only welcome but celebrated as members of the Body of Christ.

Discussion:

- 1) question use of phrase “leading congregation” – reference of “church on the hill”; question of putting MUMC forward more humbly, not naming ourselves as leaders. There is recognition of MUMC as a role model as other churches look to MUMC in pandemic response, safety procedures, social justice initiatives, LGBTQ+, etc.
- 2) discussion of “as the denomination divides” – recognition of people and congregations that are already leaving versus not saying it till we get there
- 3) appreciation of mention of the emphasis on Wesleyan heritage
- 4) is the timeline an achievable goal? – timeline with General Conference may or may not be 2024
- 5) question use of “our” toward being more inclusive – remove “our” from statements
- 6) remove “current public statements of the congregation”
- 7) highly visible versus leading congregation?
- 8) use of “servant leadership” to convey message of Christ-like leadership versus arrogance or self-serving
- 9) suggested language: as we divide, the congregation will embrace its role to be servant leaders in the denomination and affirm its commitment...

Also:

In this uncertain time MUMC will embrace the responsibility of servant leadership and affirm its commitmentMethodist ethos within the denomination

Andy will revise the DRAFT based on feedback and disseminate again.

Everyone invited to offer a word that reflects how you feel about current revised statement – hopeful, excited, relieved, (general positive response)

Next meeting - TBA – look for Doodle