

Beliefs from Small Group Discussions
Visioning Retreat Follow-up April 15, 2012
North Presbyterian Church

Faith

Our “why” is to spread the word of the Lord by being disciples.
Need to worship God – a more significant part of church.
The thrill of seeing a person come to Christ – loving God – loving our neighbor – spiritual growth.
Follow Jesus teachings (and life)
Glorify God’s world.
We honor God’s creation
We glorify God
Love and compassion
We have faith
We are called to be faithful disciples

Post-Its from Discussion:

Why - to be follower(s) of Jesus. What - attend coffee hour, invite to coffee hour, visit with people at coffee hour
Make clear that mission and faith are totally interrelated.
Remember the beatitudes of Jesus in making decisions. Hold each possible action up to Jesus' teachings.
We glorify God. Sing in the choir.
World music of high quality.
Witnesses the why from the Presbyterian.

Education

Post-Its from Discussion:

Really like new Sunday school format - older KMT + YMT and younger
Would like to see an adult Bible study perhaps a weekday morning.
Think about how we can help with parenting issues from a Christian perspective, i.e. popularity of literature vs. age-appropriate content.
Continue to support youth Christian education and activities.

Mission

“Spotlight” our mission work instead of “floodlight.”

Post-Its from Discussion:

Sunday activity moves "toward" - spotlighted! [mission]
Spotlighted mission is limited to 12 months.

Engage in activities that help those in need, such as volunteering at a food pantry. Invite others to join us.

Service, mission

Care for hungry and homeless.

A strong commitment to social justice.

Carry out our mission throughout the community

Mission projects that honor partners' wishes (not just ours)

Spiritual Growth

Post-Its from Discussion:

My "why" #1: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." SO...to understand how to glorify and enjoy God requires study, education, understanding. THEREFORE...North Church should devote more energy to the SPIRITUAL development of congregation.

WHAT: Promote the spiritual growth of each and every one. WHY: To follow and obey the two greatest commandments of Christ - Love God - Love Neighbor

Develop worship opportunities mid-week for healing and care.

Pastoral care

Offer spiritual growth education

Small groups (10) Focus on specific actions. Small groups - divide into "other" small groups. Action - once gained - end the group. Do what works then move on to next.

Create spiritual support groups for study and growth.

Inclusion

Room for many views – God has room for everybody.

Inclusion of God's people

Room for all at God's table

Post-Its from Discussion:

Be more friendly - welcoming. Speak to each other.

Make people feel more welcomed.

Need younger members. Name tags. Be more welcoming.

Encourage all ages.

What - Make others feel welcome here - be more accepting of differences.

Compassion/room for all. Truly accessible building open to all - elevator, etc.

Community

God wants us to be in community.

We have a dream for the future

Post-Its from Discussion:

Need to build community/connections - small, special interest groups - welcome new people to groups

Think about how we can help with parenting issues from a Christian perspective, i.e. popularity of literature vs. age-appropriate content.

Why - to be follower(s) of Jesus. What - attend coffee hour, invite to coffee hour, visit with people at coffee hour

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Service, mission

Care for hungry and homeless.

Carry out our mission throughout the community

Examine role of church as part of greater local community.

Encourage participation of individuals across age groups.

Invite groups such as AA, NA, PFLAG, etc. to use our facilities more.

Show others what we do.

More fun groups.

Small groups of people from different religions.

Find a way for people who need help to seek it here.

More individual recognition, e.g. birthdays, among whole church, and anniversaries, graduations

Why: called to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. What: Programs of interest to neighborhood.

Dream for the future - small groups where dreams can be generated and shared.

Continue outreach to the community.

Love and compassion = create either or both a before or after-school program for parents who can't afford to pay for such.

Care and Compassion: Advocate for faithful federal budget to help those in need.

Link to a Buffalo neighborhood.

Change

No fear of change.
Willingness to listen and change

Post-Its from Discussion:

Need to build community/connections - small, special interest groups - welcome new people to groups

Slimming down list of mission work to be more effective

Reduce long-term commitment on committees and increase focused, short-term or project-focused small groups/task forces

Committees that last forever

Do we really need deacons when their role/tasks are being completed by others?

Continue mission work

Action moves to new groups. New groups end!

Streamline processes

What can we let go of in visioning forward?? Will it imperil membership? Must this constrain our plan's worthiness?

How do we measure or define RISK?

Offer people ways to be involved in ways that are a smaller commitment than serving on a committee.

Have a system that has emerging leadership and the decentralization of leadership.

Be risk takers, tolerance for ambiguity

Put limits on years spent on a specific committee.

Before deciding, count the cost, and do research. Feel out the like-minded.

Vision shared and regularly promoted.

Expand Dress a Girl to other churches?

Committees that go on too long. Structure that is too cumbersome.

Renew + adapt committee structure

Other comments

In our mission statement there is only one sentence that refers to the “why.”

We need to be reminded to keep our focus on the “why.”

We need to use the “why” to find and establish the identity of the church.

Need to articulate the simple “why” that a person is a part of North – looking for clarity of purpose.

How and what flows from why

Importance of the “why”

Need to define the “why”

Post-Its from Discussion:

Each group meeting here might approach the communion table as a group and pray for guidance in making decisions.

Honor God's creation. Spread the word that we can change the oil/death link.

We honor God's creation. 1. Install and manage solar electric system for church. 2. Meet with other nonprofit organizations to help them install solar systems.