

United Church of Chapel Hill
Strategic Planning 2019



PLANNING UPDATE

Strategic planning begun, but not completed

In the spring of 2017 the “Faithful Futures” process came to a close. Led by national consultant Susan Beaumont, and with input from large segments of the congregation, our able UCCH “Futures” team concluded several months of work with a series of findings and recommendations. While initially tasked with creating a formal strategic plan for the church, they were forced to shift their emphasis upon the announcement of Rick and Jill Eden’s retirement. Their report included valuable recommendations for the search process for a new senior pastor, but not a strategic plan. They noted that once the new pastor was on board, the church should return to the task and complete the process with his/her active input.

Church Council authorizes the completion of the process

At its most recent meeting the Church Council voted to authorize the final phase of the strategic planning process, building on the work already begun, with a target of completion at year’s end. A large part of the work will be centered on the Council itself, but with wide-ranging input from key stakeholders throughout the congregation. The process will continue in honoring our core commitments to inclusion, providing points of access and transparency for all church members. Council members are committed to bring a full strategic plan to the church for adoption by December at the latest.

Coordinating Team appointed

In order to facilitate the work of the board and maximize inclusion of a variety of voices, the Council authorized the appointment of a Coordinating Team of 5-7 church members to join **Nick Carter**, who has been asked to chair the Team. Nominees to the Coordinating

Team were solicited from the Church Council, which submitted nearly 40 names in light of several desired characteristics and qualities desired.

- Gifts for "facilitating" or "enabling" the process
- Demonstrated ability to "stand in the balcony" and consider the needs of the whole church
- Attention to the participation of women, LGBTQ, Latinx, POC communities
- Familiarity with "foundational documents" (Faithful Future, SCOR Report, Ministry Architects, etc)

The following individuals have agreed to serve with Nick: **Efren Maldonado, Peter Barnes, Jody Forehand, Diane Bertsch, Angela Daye and Katherine Henderson.**

Building on the work already accomplished

Over the last 5 years UCCH has had no fewer than 5 studies and consultations that examined the church dynamics, demographics, and structure, as well as probed the core values and commitments of the congregation. The Strategic Planning process will not try to reinvent the wheel, and instead take advantage of and build upon the results of these efforts, using them as foundational building blocks, thus ensuring that nothing is lost and all is of value.

Regular communication

The Coordinating Team will be in constant communication with the members of the Church Council, but they will also work "out loud." This means that church members will receive regular reports throughout the process. Those reports will not only include information about what's going on, but ways in which church members can provide input.

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Next Update will focus on the steps of the process & the timetable