

United Church of Chapel Hill  
**Strategic Planning 2009**



## PLANNING UPDATE 4.8.19

### Environmental Scan takes shape

The 360-degree look inside and outside the church is well underway. It will serve as the basis of our strategic planning discussions. The first part, a study of external factors impacting our church, is nearly complete. We have been able to draw on the work already done by the Faithful Futures team, the SCOR report, and the church profile done for the search process. We've complimented them with data from several respected outside sources. Among them is the National Congregations Study at Duke, the Association of Religious Data, and FACT: Hartford Seminary, Gallop Polls, US Census, and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The internal examination is developing nicely, but we have another week or so to go. We are still at work in the areas of finance, property, music and youth. The SCOR report and one of the interest groups at the January retreat recommended that a diversity audit be conducted of UCCH's vendors. After a productive meeting with former treasurer **Chuck Willingham** and UCCH business manager **Duane Gilbert**, our team has begun the audit. Not only will it include an examination minority ownership of all current vendors, but go on to look at the commitments these vendors have made to diversity. An additional step in this process will be to survey racial and ethnic minority churches in our area to develop a new list of vendors they recommend.

### Visioning Session Scheduled

On **Saturday May 18th at 10:00AM** we will host a special open session during which all members of the church are welcome to join the Church Council in sharing our visions for the church over the next 5 years. Every member of the church is invited to attend this 2-hour workshop. Refreshments will be served. It will be a lot of fun as we share together our hopes and dreams for the church in the near future. Please make plans to be there.

### The Timeline

As promised the UCCH TIMELINE has been created and put up in the service hallway next to the kitchen (right off the Fellowship Hall). It notes more than 30 of the key dates in our church history and has room for every member to indicate when he or she joined the church. The Timeline has provoked several interesting observations about our history, the trends of membership, and what folks have been around a long time (who belongs to the BR+J club? i.e. “before Rick and Jill”!). We already have 15-20% of members who have signed on to the Timeline. Have you?

### The Storybook Project

In the last Update we shared that a unique document is about to be written - by you! You are invited to tell your story and have it included in the Story Book. Each of us will have the chance to speak to the question about what makes our church unique in a personal way. *What is one defining instance where United Church shaped you or moved you?* It could be a sermon, a baptism, Bible study, a work of music, a pastoral visit, a dynamic small group, a youth event, a mission trip, a fellowship dinner, a fundraiser, or a justice commitment or demonstration. Who knows?! There are countless short stories that make a church into a church, and we should not go about charting a future without a sense of who we are. *What’s your story? Tell us in a couple of paragraphs.*

**When you are finished, email your paragraphs to the [StoryProject@unitedchurch.org](mailto:StoryProject@unitedchurch.org) or drop them off at the church office.**

### Want access to our documents?

Ours is an open process: no secrets! To that end, we have created a place on the church website (right on the top menu bar), where you can go to have access to all our communications and documents. Whenever a document is published or made available to the Church Council we will also post it on this website tab.

[www.Unitedchurch.org/strategic-planning](http://www.Unitedchurch.org/strategic-planning)

To contact the Coordinating Team: [ncarter2nc@gmail.com](mailto:ncarter2nc@gmail.com)

To contact Rev. Barr or the Church Council: [cbarr@unitedchurch.org](mailto:cbarr@unitedchurch.org)

*Coordinating Team: Peter Barnes, Angela Daye, Efren Maldonado, Katherine Henderson, Dianne Bertsch, Jody Forehand, Nick Carter*