

United Church of Chapel Hill
Strategic Planning 2019



PLANNING UPDATE 6.19.19

Environmental Scan published

After nearly three months of work, revision and editing, the Environmental Scan has been published and posted. Stretching over 30+ pages it provides a comprehensive look inside and outside of UCCH. Filled with data about the church, you can examine trends in membership, Sunday attendance, budget, staffing, and a host of programs. The primary purpose of the scan is to provide an objective look at the church so that we can have a common base of information as we seek to discern our future. While the Church Council will be the primary user of this data, everyone in the church is welcome to access it and use it.

Vision

On Saturday April 27th we hosted a well-attended Vision Workshop, and over 85 people (about 10% of the congregation) participated the session. Aably led by **Katherine Henderson** and **Jody Forehand**, the 3-hour event included opportunities for attendees to share with one another hopes and dreams about the future of the church. The results of the entire session have been faithfully recorded and posted on the church website for all to see (including a copy of the agenda for the day and feedback from small group leaders). These results have also been handed over to Pastor Cameron Barr whose responsibility it is to now create a unifying Vision Statement for the church. It will be distributed in draft form for comment in the coming week.

The Storybook Project

The Story Book has been published! More than 40 people responded to the invitation to contribute to this unique project that asked for personal anecdotes of what defined United Church for them. The stories provide wonderful insights into our church and the

varied experiences folks have had that make UCCH their spiritual home. This too will contribute to the reflection that helps create a meaningful strategic plan by reminding us of the things we value most about our church. The Storybook is now posted on the church website. It makes for great reading.

Next Steps

After several months of data-gathering, reflection on our history, and listening to the interests and concerns of church members, a newly formed Church Council will spend the summer months reading and reflecting on all the data and reports in preparation for the final stages of the strategic planning process. Then they will gather on Saturday August 24th for an extended workshop to share their insights and review the church's mission and vision. It is anticipated that sometime in September a congregational meeting will be convened to adopt (or reaffirm) the **Mission, Vision and Core Values** statements. These things will provide the foundation for the next stage in the process of articulating **Goals and Objectives** for the plan (feedback opportunities will be part of this process too). The planning effort is moving at a good pace, but will extend well into the fall. While the goal is to reach completion by Thanksgiving, everyone involved is committed to "get it right" rather than meet an artificial date for completion.

Want access to our documents?

Ours is an open process: no secrets! 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

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