

Faith Lutheran Church

REPORT OF THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING DISCERNMENT TASK FORCE

PRELIMINARY LONG-RANGE PLANNING GOALS

WORSHIP (Kerygma)

Goals:

- We will nurture our members into a life-long commitment to worship
- Our worship services will be open and accessible to all people regardless of age, marital and family status, or ethnic background

Objectives:

To enhance the accessibility of worship to all persons by providing a variety of worship times and styles.

Strengths to build on

- Strong liturgical worship experience steeped in tradition and flexible in expression
- Strong and varied music ministry for persons of all ages and style preferences
- Members' passionate support of and participation in programs that interest them

Needs to be addressed

- Lack of intentional offerings geared toward young adults (ages 21-35)
- Lack of awareness of the presence of non-Lutherans in worship
- Preparation time between services

Some Possible Strategies

- Pew and parking lot shepherds
- Young adults strategy team

EDUCATION (Didache)

Goals:

- Committed to the concept of faith development, we will establish opportunities for persons to grow in their faith in every age, stage, and circumstance of their life
- Our programs will be open and accessible to all people regardless of age, marital or family status, or ethnic background

Objectives:

To provide adequate, welcoming space conducive to the formation of faith among persons of all ages.

Strengths to build on

- Attractive, efficient, facilities in a great location
- Strong children's ministries
- Rapidly growing *Seeds of Faith* Learning Center
- Variety of educational and program offerings
- The tremendous financial resources of our membership
- Members' passionate support of and participation in programs of interest to them

Needs to be addressed

- Lack of space for adult education
- Lack of assimilation process for new members
- Lack of children and youth education space
- Lack of courses in basic theology, Bible, faith, and grace
- Lack of education offerings geared toward young adults (ages 21-35)

Some Possible Strategies

- Adult education hour at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday morning
- Exploration of expanding educational spaces at Faith

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE (Koinonia and Diakonia)

Goals:

- We will enhance community (koinonia) and improve the sense of belonging and commitment
- We will inspire members to discover and use their gifts to serve Christ in the congregation and the community
- Sensitive to the concept of faith development, we will establish opportunities for persons to express their faith in every age, stage, and circumstance of their life
- We will focus our attention outward to address the needs of the community and the world

Objective One:

To provide staffing that will assist the congregation in the discovery, development, and use of their gifts to serve Christ in this congregation and the community

Strengths to build on

- A membership incredibly gifted with a vast variety of gifts
- A gifts discovery program for all new members
- Members' passionate support of and participation in programs of interest to them

Needs to be addressed

- Limited involvement of membership in some congregational ministries
- Challenge of staffing expanding ministries with volunteers
- Many members are not aware of their giftedness
- Lack of congregation wide gifts discovery and management process

Some Possible Strategies

- Adding professional and support staff to support a gifts-awareness ministry

Objective Two:

Be intentional about continually looking outward to the needs of the community and the world

Strengths to build on

- Current outreach, global and local

Needs to be addressed

- Staff and congregational support for Outreach Board

Some possible strategies

- Congregational participation in AMOS, a community needs assessment process

Objective Three:

Intentional planning of education and small group ministries to provide programming for all ages, stages, and life circumstances

Strengths to build on

- Current fellowship opportunities
- Current small group ministry
- Members' passionate support of areas of interest to them

Needs to be addressed

- Space for small groups
- Staffing and office space for assimilating new members, helping all members discover and use spiritual gifts, and enhance small group ministry
- Comprehensive, ongoing, as well as age, stage, and life circumstance specific adult educational offerings
- Increased time between services for fellowship

Some Possible Strategies

- Exploration of expanding staff and small group spaces at Faith

GENERAL FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT FOR KERYGMA, DIDACHE, KOINONIA, AND DIAKONIA

Goals:

- Provide a budget that reflects the goals discerned by the congregation
- Establish transparent, effective communication so that the congregation is well-informed
- Make comprehensive use of technology to provide adequate communication and build community
- Provide structures, policies, governing documents, and ways of relating to each other that reflect our core beliefs and give clear direction to leaders for providing continuity and ensuring healthy congregational life
- Provide adequate space and staff to fulfill the congregation's goals
- Increase visibility in our neighborhood and with our community

Objectives:

Establish a variety of ways that will provide adequate visibility to our neighbors.

Evaluate the utilization of space and staffing needs to fulfill the approved ministry goals.

Establish a Communications Ministry Team that will implement a comprehensive communications program.

Review our current structure, policies, governing documents, and ways of relating to each other and revise them to comply and under gird our core beliefs and give clear direction to our leaders so that our ministry goals may be realized.

Strengths to build on

- Our current facilities
- Our current staff and leaders
- Our current proclamation, teaching, community, and service offerings
- Our current interaction with and ministry to our neighborhood and community
- Financial resources
- Members' passionate support of areas of interest to them

Needs to be addressed

- Space for adult education and small group ministry
- Task forces to look at: communication; space and staffing needs; structure, policies, governing documents, and ways we relate to each other; budgeting processes and requirements.

Some Possible Strategies

- Different signage for our building
- Enhance our electronic communication capabilities
- Explore the use of temporary facilities
- Develop a visionary budget

THE COUNCIL, THE BOARDS AND OTHERS WILL IDENTIFY MINISTRY TEAMS TO DEVELOP ACTION PLANS TO MEET THE IDENTIFIED GOALS. THE MINISTRY TEAMS WILL BE FORMED FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR A SPECIFIC AREA.

Faith's Mission Statement

A family of FAITH in Christ,
Called to proclaim the FAITH,
Grow in FAITH,
and live in FAITH.