

## **Achieved and Planned Ministry in 2017 for First United Methodist Church's VISION**

Dated March 20, 2017

First United Methodist Church's Vision consists of three major Ministry Initiatives and our Core Values in Action. Our leaders in these three Ministry Initiatives are talking, planning and praying about the direction they believe they are being called to follow Christ. We have made beautiful progress in our Vision already this year and more is being discerned. Below is a summary of what we've done and where we believe we are being led. In regard to future plans, the outcome will be up to how the Spirit continues to lead, the work of our leadership, and the involvement of the entire congregation.

**Ministry Initiative #1:** Adopt and Embrace the families of the Klondike School district – in partnership with Klondike Elementary school

### Achieved Ministry

- Rev. Denny Frank and Britney Bullis are a strong leadership team
- Active Read to Succeed ministry with 20 volunteers
- Active Lunch Buddy ministry with 7 volunteers
- 3 FUMC members volunteering in Coder's Closet
- Hundreds of items, including socks, underwear, hats, mittens, and shoes, donated to Coder's Closet
- Launching of Math Matters 2 program in Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms, with 9 volunteers currently

### Discerning Future Ministry

The management at Point West Trailer Park and at Applegate Apartments have approached Klondike about the possibility of using the facility community room for an after school program. Klondike had tried to offer a program for a couple of years, at the school, but transportation home for the children was a major obstacle. Beginning slowly with the program held weekly at each location would allow children to participate without transportation problems.

**Ministry Initiative #2:** Embrace the Purdue Community - in partnership with the Wesley Foundation

### Achieved Ministry

- A strong team consisting of Rev. Lana Robyne, Rev. Dr. Glen Robyne, Paige Clinkenbeard, Jonathon Day, Rev. Craig LaSuer and Karen Hull is meeting monthly
- Purdue vision tree showing opportunities to give and serve in the narthex

- 100 years of Wesley and the strong connection to First Church highlighted in March 5<sup>th</sup> worship focus in traditional services

#### Planned Ministry

- Successfully complete the fellowship space renovation
  - Raise \$10,000 (Good sized contributions are getting us started off well!)
  - 2 work parties with at least 40 people serving
- Increased awareness of the ministries
  - KPIs – monthly and weekly notices/news articles
- Engagement
  - FUMC at the Gala and the fall event
  - FUMC members subscribed to PSST
  - FUMC participation in open houses/working bees/joint activities

**Ministry Initiative #3:** Ensure our FUMC community is connected and growing in their walk with Christ

#### Achieved Ministry

- Rev. Lana Robyne and Jana Day's Wednesday Lenten study and prayer groups
- Longevity of several existing Sunday school classes and dedication of teachers
- Devotions, Fellowship, and Connection class has successfully engaged new and longtime members in Sunday school for the first time in a long time. Class size is usually 17-18. Several classmates are receiving Father Richard Rohr's daily emails.
- Currently have over 50 opportunities that provide spiritual growth and connection in congregation and community.

#### Planned Ministry

- Create a strong team to partner with Rev. Craig LaSuer and Karen Hull
- Hold a spiritual Development Fair, towards the end of the summer. Dependent on a having team to help launch it. Fair would include upcoming classes, spiritual gifts inventory, tools for individually spiritual growth such as Father Richard Rohr's emails and Upper Room magazine; recommended books, booths for existing small group opportunities
- Support and encourage other grassroots small group efforts like Rev. Lana Robyne and Jana Day's groups and Diane Morrison's group
- Create, implement, and analyze a survey to understand the needs and wants of congregation with regard to spiritual growth and small group participation

Our Core Values in Action are:

- **Radically inclusive and welcoming**, and freely sharing God's love with all
- **Nurturing and Empowering** people to be disciples of Christ
- **Celebrating God's love** with vibrant, inspiring relevant worship
- **Doing God's work** by serving those in need in our local community and throughout the world

Achieved Ministry

- Successful first Family Promise host week at the end of February
  - Beautiful teamwork to get FUMC ready as host site. Team included: Heidi Bagnall, Judy Grimmer, Rev. Lana Robyne, Shari Bittles, Joy LaSuer, Rev. Craig LaSuer, Diane Stott, and others
  - More than 30 people from FUMC and Trinity in ministry that week to 3 families
- The LGBTQ Sunday School Class is a grassroots movement full of energy and passion with the mission to help us carefully and thoughtfully discern if we desire to become a Reconciling Congregation.

In conclusion, we are a body of Christ, and we are following the Spirit of Christ. This takes discernment, prayer, good communication and lots of grace! Let us continue on the adventure together.

Rev. Craig LaSuer