

Long Range Plan **WC Input**

Last Revised: 11.10.12

Worship Committee/Long Term Planning Process

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1 This action furthers the mission and work of our committee and the mission and vision of the church in the following ways

Please, explain these in terms of your committee's work and mission as they support the vision and mission of the church, keeping mind specifically:

- Carry our gifts and message into the world
- Understanding and celebrating difference as wisdom, inside and outside our walls
- Empower people to create loving, fulfilling relationships

2 This action will contribute to the church's institutional health in the following ways.

Use as much detail as possible, including numbers, such as targets and estimates. For example, number of people reached, number of hits to a web posting, number of members completing a training and committing to an action, dollars raised, lay work hours on something ...

Start with the following basic contributions, but add those not listed.

Generate new energy or tap existing energy

- Create new fundraising opportunities or help use financial resources more efficiently
- Attract new members or deepen the experience of existing members

3 This action will draw on the following resources.

Include as much detail as possible, including numbers.

Try your best to define resources already present in the congregation, as well as those that would need to be developed or secured in some way. Resources include quantifiable things, such as money, time, space; as well as things such as knowledge, skill (teaching), gifts (dynamic worship), orientation (openness), awareness (physical and other needs of people vary according to our current and changing abilities) and enthusiasm for a particular idea (visiting people detained by immigration authorities) or activity (pot lucks).

Overall Question

How might we lead the congregation in discovering the differences among us that may not be obvious?

Action 1

As many committee members as possible will attend the Leading Edge Conference at Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan. Time Frame: Spring 2013

1. Furthers the work of committee and mission/vision of the church

The conference is designed to give leaders skills, inspiration and reflection to help them as they try to help their congregations work toward a more just society. The work focus of the conference dovetails perfectly with the goals set at the PC retreat and the aspirations articulated throughout the larger congregation.

- Strengthen the prophetic work of our congregations
- Equip lay leaders and clergy for leading change together
- Create art, worship, and education that resource justice work
- Address the issues of racial, economic, and gender/LGBTI justice head-on
- Strategize to sustain our movement with spiritual practices that reflect a multicultural and multiracial society

2. Contributes to institutional health

- Inform FP as it establishes a formal leadership development program
- New or additional ways of incorporating issues and ideals of justice into worship life and spiritual practice to help achieve higher level of consistency in congregation' awareness, and also allowing us to gain critical mass in our ministry, allowing for maximum penetration of ideas and work oft
- Introduce new and alternative modalities for connecting with spiritual sates of being and insight
- Support congregation-wide efforts to investigate and internalize new understandings of issues of diversity, welcome, and inclusion through alternative forms and modes of worship
- Inspire and help build confidence in congregation to spread the message of welcome, dignity, love, giftedness and salvation for all through worship and the cultivation of other spiritual practices

3. Resources

Established

- Dynamic worship led and produced by experienced, creative and supportive clergy and staff
- Established worship team that works well together and is open to ministry staff's call to change in order to support the congregation as it changes and grows
- Solid core of regular worship-goers
- Fabulous choir

To be developed

- Music program that draws on many different musical genres
- Congregation open to alternative styles worship and music in the service of reaching out to the needs and tastes of many different people, including possible movement, dance, streamers, etc.
- Financial resources to help send people to the conference: \$150 for 5 people plus travel and accommodations
- Experience with alternative forms of worship and spiritual practice

- New habits, such as spending more time on church than worship and committee meetings. Perhaps need to change routines or change church activities or other priorities; ability to see justice work as part of spiritual practice and extension of worship experience worship

Action 2

Worship Committee will visit other houses and communities of worship (Adult Neighboring Faiths). Time Frame: Fall 2012 through Fall 2013 for start, with goal of implementing 1 or 2 new things this spring and something more substantial next fall

1. Mission and vision

- Investigate and reflect on the wisdom different faith traditions, bring back to the congregation through worship experience and perhaps in cooperation with other committee's work
- FP will be out in the community, hopefully forging connections, as well as learning

2. Contribution to institutional health

- Hope to provide varied forms of worship and ways of accessing the spiritual, so that different kinds of transformation are available
- Provide worship and other spiritual experiences that are appealing to more diverse population we can

3. Resources

Established

- Transport
- Their houses of worship

To be developed

- Time
- Ability to use what we learn

- Ability of congregation to enter into new forms of worship openly and find ways to benefit from the unfamiliar
- Perhaps some new relationships with communities we visit

Action 3

Develop worship outside the Sunday format; different daytime, format. Look at offering combining service and reflection component as part of Sunday worship experience (e.g. worship as preparation for service and then reflect together after work is done. Time frame: First attempt in winter/spring 2013

1. Further mission and work

- Opportunity to help people get out and get connected in a spiritually significant way
- Opportunity to experience enter into and appreciate the orientation, culture, practice and preferences of others
- Preparation for being as welcoming as we want to be to all people in ways that are sensitive to their needs
- Offer opportunities for worship and spiritual fellowship outside Sunday so that different people will be served.
- Possible connection to earth-centered worship group, to share service outside of building (on lawn), rather than within it. Opportunity to show those who don't yet connect with that group what it represents.

2. Institutional health

- Any worship that happens outside our walls fuels outer-connectedness and heightened awareness of difference, social dynamics, etc., especially if paired with reflection time
- By offering a variety of opportunities we are telling people that all are valued and that there are many valid paths available to spiritual transformation, this benefits existing members and can attract other people as well
- Doing church in new ways, including serving others outside our walls opens people's hearts and lives to new possibilities and

keeps us healthy and growing

3. Resources

Established

- Ministers and lay leaders who are able to listen to each other
- Ministerial team and lay leaders in congregation who have skills in social justice making

To be developed

- Capacity and desire to do church in a new way, to make room for new experiences, and to find way to enter into and benefit from the unfamiliar
- Relationships with other communities and organizations with which we can minister and learn
- Time and patience as new formats and times settle. May see no response from congregation (Vespers) or a bit of cannibalization, since there is no hierarchy requiring us to come to a specific worship event