

OUR TREE OF LEARNING OUR TREE OF LIFE

PV UMC



WELCOME!! And GOOD AFTERNOON!

One of the many responsibilities of leadership is forward-looking, or planning for the future.

About 13 months ago, a small group of folks (Pastor Wendy, John, Michael, Lisa, & Jerry) came together to begin that process, and this spring more folks (Elton, Lu, & Larry) were added to the group – and later, Pastor Amanda.

Some of the issues identified included: an aging congregation, a lack of growth, and diminished funding.

A quote from “Alice in Wonderland”: When Alice came to a juncture in the road; the Cheshire Cat was poised in a tree at the juncture. Alice asked the Cat “Which way do I go?” the Cat responded “Where do you want to go?” Alice replied “But I do not know where I am going” to which the Cat said “Then any way will do.”

It was clear that doing nothing was truly not an option, we need to address those issues, but just how do we do that?

Today, we’re here to review a **draft** of our proposed path forward. It has been rumored that “secret meetings” have been taking place. Sorry for that perception, but not true. Just a lot of learning and a few delays, and we view this draft as incomplete.

We have chosen to portray our draft using the analogy of a tree.



This tree consists of 3 parts:

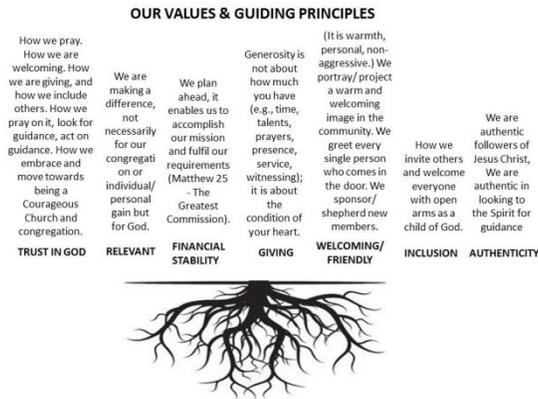
- First is the soil & root system. This is the system that feeds and supports the tree and growth of the tree. It is below ground, usually never seen, but is essential to the health, well-being, and longevity of the tree. This is who **we** are.
- Next the trunk. This is the conduit for growth of the tree. It carries nutrients to the upper portions of the tree. This is what focuses our efforts.
- Finally, we have the canopy. This is what is most evident. This is what others see. It is also how we get to where we are going. It is the fruit of the soil, roots, and trunk.



The soil and our roots are our Values and Guiding Principles. Most of the group's time has been spent here, struggling much of the time.

The trunk is our Mission and our Vision.

The canopy – how we blossom and leaf out – how we get to where we are going.



Values – we see these as our primary values, but not necessarily not all inclusive.

Guiding Principles – this is what those values look like when put into action.

TRUST IN GOD – How we pray. How we are welcoming. How we are giving, and how we include others. How we pray on it, look for guidance, act on guidance. How we embrace and move towards being a Courageous Church and congregation.

RELEVANT – We are making a difference, not necessarily for our congregation, or individual/ personal gain, but for God.

FINANCIAL STABILITY – We plan ahead, it enables us to accomplish our mission and fulfil our requirements (Matthew 25 - The Greatest Commission).

GIVING – Generosity is not about how much you have (e.g., time, talents, prayers, presence, service, witnessing); it is about the condition of your heart.

WELCOMING/ FRIENDLY – (It is warmth, personal, non-aggressive.) We portray/ project a warm and welcoming image in the community. We greet every single person who comes in the door. We sponsor/ shepherd new members.

INCLUSION – How we invite others and welcome everyone with open arms as a child of God.

AUTHENTICITY – We are authentic followers of Jesus Christ, We are authentic in looking to the Spirit for guidance.

OUR MISSION & OUR VISION

VISION

- This Church remains inclusive.
- Membership continues to increase.
- We are reaching into the neighborhood.
- Financially viable.
- We have a second service that is contemporary.

MISSION

- Reaching up in prayer,
- Reaching out in love, and
- Reaching in for guidance by the Holy Spirit.

Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission was established some time ago:

Reaching Up in Prayer,
 Reaching Out in Love,
 Reaching in For Guidance by the Holy Spirit

Our Vision is where we chose to be in 3 to 5 years:

This Church remains inclusive.
 Membership continues to increase.
 We are reaching into the neighborhood.
 Financially viable.



We have a second service that is contemporary

How we get there

To accomplish this, we have identified 4 Areas of Focus:

- Reaching up in Prayer for Guidance
- Growing Connections
- Reaching into the neighborhood
- “Sacrificial Giving”

Within each of these Areas we have identified potential sub areas of focus to help us achieve our mission & vision. They include but are not limited to (see below) , and we need your help to focus because we cannot address all of these at the same time.

- Reaching up in Prayer for Guidance
 - Encourage Personal Prayer
 - Follow Up to Sunday “Concerns”
- Growing Connections
 - Pay Attention to Who IS/IS NOT at Sunday Service
 - Initiate a “Contemporary” Service
 - Get People to the Front Door
 - Continue to Shepherd New Members
 - Increase Financial Transparency
- Reaching into the Neighborhood
 - Identify Other Events that can be Leveraged in Our Neighborhood
 - PV UMC Website
 - PV UMC Facebook Page
- “Sacrificial Giving”
 - To Be Determined



Our ultimate goal is to move from this (in the presentation, this was a bare/leafless tree),
utilizing a number of projects and activities in these sub focus areas, and as these projects or
activities are completed, ,
to this (in the presentation, the tree leafed out).

TABLE QUESTIONS

1. What would make this clear for you? What do we need to be clear about in our church?
2. Who do we need to include? What do we need to consider?
3. What steps do you think OUR church should be taking?
4. What sparks your fire so that you can burn? What is something that YOU are passionate about?



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