

GRACE UMC STRATEGIC PLANNING UP-DATE 2009

It's been one year since we established a five year strategic plan for our church. A large group of members met times to discuss the goals and needs of our church. The results included the development of new Mission and Vision Statements, a set of 14 Goals with specific Action Plans that would direct us in how to achieve those goals.

THE MISSION OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS TO LIVE AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST.

We agreed that we would achieve our mission by "building God's family, near and far, by loving, serving, worshipping, and growing together in faith" (our vision statement). Thus we are to BUILD GOD'S FAMILY... both here in Centre Hall and afar. We will grow our faith through acts of service, through worship and by loving others.

We established 14 specific goal areas to work on in the next five years. They are:

Youth Ministry	Children's programming
Outreach and Missions	Young adult fellowship and growth
Christian Education	Increase Active Membership
Fellowship Activities	Comprehensive facility planning
Hospitality at Worship	Technology upgrades
Enhance Worship	Communication and Marketing
Stewardship planning	Church viability and future planning

A number of changes were made in 2008 to help us begin our work. First, the name of the Administrative Council was changed to the LEADERSHIP TEAM. The primary tasks of this team, chaired by Dan Gensimore, are Church Visioning, Church Growth and Church Management. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Church Library. Voting members of the Leadership team attend, but all members of the congregation are always welcome to come too.

Several new MINISTRY GROUP TEAMS were named with responsibility to address action steps in the Strategic Plan. The Communications and Marketing Team began immediately to address the need for a Church Newsletter and Web Site. The Technology Team began to research possible solutions for up-grading the sound system in the sanctuary. As you are aware, both of these teams were successful in meeting their goals.

Three additional Teams were identified in the Strategic Plan, but did not become active in 2008. Volunteers are needed to join these teams: HOSPITALITY TEAM, CHURCH RECORDS TEAM, AND CHRISTIAN GROWTH TEAM. More information about each of these teams will be identified in the church bulletins. Contact Pastor Judi if you would like to participate or want additional information.

At the March 10th Leadership Team meeting, the group reviewed the Strategic Plan Action Steps noting the achievements of 2008 and established the priorities for 2009.

2008 Grace UMC Achievements

- Developed a five year visioning (strategic) plan for the church
- Recruited New Sunday School Teachers
- Held first Overnight Retreat for Young Adults
- Increased participation in fellowship activities, at church dinners,
Egg making, Grace Cake breakfasts
- Studied worship schedule and made appropriate changes
- Supported a Youth Mission trip to New York City
- Initiated discussions with other churches in Penns Valley regarding the hiring of a
youth pastor who could serve all United Methodist youth in the valley
- Expanded the delivery of meals to 18 shut-ins one Sun. each month
- Served numerous families in need with money from the Sonshine Fund
- Revised and published handouts which clarified the role of ushers, greeters,
acolytes, and liturgists during worship
- Hosted Centre Hall Council of Churches services for Advent and Lent
- Supported Children's Activities to include Trunk or Treat etc.
- Cleaned, painted, redecorated and partially refurbished the Nursery.
- Reviewed the relationship between Grace Church and the Playschool, formalized
playschool operations and procedures, re-allocated space for playschool
classrooms
- Expanded fellowship and Christian Growth opportunities for young adults
through Guys and Gals of Grace and Cellar Dweller Sunday School Class
- Completed a full scale audit of the church and parsonage facilities
- Held a Country Christmas Bazaar to raise funds for kitchen renovations
- Purchased and installed a new sound system in the church sanctuary
- Distributed a bi-monthly newsletter and developed an active church web site
- Purchased a new computer for the church office and installed a high speed
internet connection
- Added additional bulletin boards and established one location for all volunteers to
sign up for church activities.
- Provided new activity bags for children to use during worship along with a peg
board to hang them on in the foyer
- Reviewed all church staff job descriptions

As you can see, we have taken our plan seriously. Thanks to everyone who participated in ANY of these activities. Your work has allowed us to move forward toward meeting our goals, vision and mission. We invite ALL members to GET INVOLVED! There's so much more to accomplish and we can use your insight and help. Please volunteer to LIVE AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST as we address our 2009 Action priorities.

2009 Strategic Planning Action Priorities

Reorganize the Leadership Team Meeting Agendas to follow up on the progress made toward Strategic Planning Goals

Recruit members and chairpersons for Ministry Teams to begin work on action Plans not yet addressed: Hospitality Team, Christian Growth Team, Church Records Team

Develop and distribute an Annual Church Calendar

Create a Children/Youth and Young Adult Task force and seek a way to provide a Youth Pastor to develop a youth program

Prioritize facility audit findings and begin to address the most critical needs

Advertise volunteer opportunities in the bulletin & newsletter

Clean & organize the church library (Church Records Team)

Continue to make progress on action steps currently in progress