

## Grace UMC Visioning Project

### Strengths of our Church

for

- Good Sunday school teachers
- Strong, caring and seasoned Sunday School leadership
- Lots of good cooks who provide meals for shut-ins, Grace Cakes, meals church dinners (2)
- Pastor (3)
- Worship service is very meaningful
- Informative church bulletin
- Prayer List
- Welcome and Greeting during worship service (2)
- Friendly, caring people
- Congregation has made progress towards being more friendly and inviting
- Great sense of community
- The people of our church – cohesiveness, willing to use their talents
- People willing to fill “job” positions
- Dedication of church treasurer and accuracy of financial records
- Fiscal responsibility
- Dedication of church secretary
- Contemporary Service (2)
- Start of the Contemporary service (2)
- Children’s time with pastor during worship service
- Choirs and Choir directors (2)
- Music
- Preschool (2)
- Young disciples
- Pancake Breakfast
- Grace Cakes
- Social Room for “outside” activities
- Expanded facility offers space for groups and programs to meet
- Facilities provide a large hall for activities
- Sincere concern for others demonstrated by our congregation
- Mission outreach
- Operation Christmas Child outreach
- Food Drive
- Egg Expressions tree
- Missions and charity work
- Donations and operation of the food and fuel bank
- Missions – both globally and locally
- Shut-in meals
- Generous with our giving
- Sonshine Fund, effective and appropriate management
- Peanut Butter Easter egg project –fundraiser, fellowship
- Social functions
- Christmas Progressive Dinner
- Youth attendance is increasing (2)
- Bike the Canyon for Christ

Geographic Location of church in center of town  
Church is debt free

## Needs of our Church

Better connection between the church and the playschool  
Coordination between church school and playschool  
Support for Jay and Shannon Reeder  
Communications – newsletter, church calendar, information about church including the Son shine fund  
Newsletter consistently published  
Communication, newsletter, website, church calendar of activities and services,  
demonstrating advanced planning – publish bi-monthly or quarterly, put on web site  
Positive communications about the strengths of our church, shout about our accomplishments  
More open communications from the administrative council – publish minutes  
New church directory  
Photo directory with e-mail addresses, birthdays, anniversaries (send birthday greetings, cards)  
Use technology to improve communications within the church and to expand information to the community about our church  
Collect data about membership, attendance, etc. for future planning purposes  
Develop and follow a comprehensive plan for the church including mission, vision, goals and action plan  
Start an emergency fund to use for unanticipated church building or parsonage repairs, organ or kitchen equipment failures, technology replacements  
Develop a plan to encourage and accept memorial and endowment gifts  
Put more resources into the contemporary service  
Empower the contemporary service to reach out to other resources  
More leaders  
Formal training programs for greeters, acolytes, ushers, etc.  
Incorporate more contemporary Christian resources available via DVD  
Grow leaders through mentoring and training (2)  
Add Sunday school teachers (2)  
More Nursery aides  
Nursery needs  
Nursery  
Youth pastor  
Children's church  
Determine the talents of the congregation  
Find ways to include "new" volunteers into existing "core" work groups or committees

## Mentoring

Get committees to be more active

Have teachers team teach

Place an insert in the weekly bulletin to make congregation aware of areas which need volunteers and a tear off sheet for people to sign

up

Unlock the Church

Update bathrooms

Provide better facilities for infants

Update kitchen

Provide better signage throughout the building to direct newcomers to bathrooms, classrooms etc.

Make better use of the bulletin board at the rear church entrance

Clean or replace carpet at the rear entrance of the church

A comprehensive facility plan for the church

Renovations and improvements to the parsonage –deck, AC

Up-date the exterior appearance of the church property with lighting

Replace the antiquated sound system in the sanctuary

Repair the wall at interior basement stairway entrance

Look for more ways to use the facility

A facility for sports, athletics and community events

Sanctuary is awkward, needs enlarged (there are already plans drawn up)

Replace basement floor with more comfortable walking surface

Playschool needs more rooms

Parking

Parking lots paved, lighted better

Install hand sanitizer or liquid hand soap dispensers in bathrooms

Improve access for the handicapped through better signage

Spring clean, organize all spaces inside the church –remove clutter and junk

Fundraising – church dinners which provide fellowship and raise funds-3

Add Bible study (3)

Expand women's and men's groups

Sponsor monthly "family night" with activities for all ages – invite the community to get to know us

Introduce people who come to the food bank to our church

Hospitality program for guests – church brochure, welcome basket, follow-up call during the week, train greeters and ushers to assist in process

Greeting in the parking lot

Welcome wagon for newcomers to our community

Ministry to the community

Reach out to the community

Community outreach

Expand ministries like the food and fuel bank

Audio tape worship services for shut-ins

Advertise

Purchase a projector for the contemporary worship service

More youth programs  
Expand teenager involvement  
Focus on children and the parents will follow  
Return to LOGOS  
Young adult fellowship  
Have a combined service with fellowship time  
Provide method for members to provide flowers in honor or memory of  
individuals throughout the year, rather than just at holiday time  
Enhance and advertise holiday services to encourage visitors to attend  
Hold one event monthly that gets the entire church body together

**Main Categories by Group 2**  
**People - Worship Service - Fiscal Health - Growth**  
**Missions/Outreach - Events - Fellowship Opportunities**

\* **Bold indicated NEW addition from group 2**

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- P - Good Sunday school teachers
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- P - Lots of good cooks who provide meals for shut-ins, Grace Cakes, meals for church dinners (2)
- P - Pastor (3)
- W - Worship service is very meaningful
- W/O - Informative church bulletin
- W/O - Prayer List
- W/F - Welcome and Greeting during worship service (2)
- P - Friendly, caring people
- P - Congregation has made progress towards being more friendly and inviting
- F - Great sense of community
- P - The people of our church – cohesiveness, willing to use their talents
- P - People willing to fill “job” positions
- P - Dedication of church treasurer accuracy of financial records
- F - Pay our apportionments on time**
- G - Growth, more folks coming to Grace**
- F - Fiscal responsibility
- P - Dedication of church secretary
- O/W - Contemporary Service (2)
- Start of the Contemporary service (2)
- Children’s time with pastor during worship service
- Choirs and Choir directors (2)
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Hold one event monthly that gets the entire church body together  
**Lay Leaders to give communion at Wynwood House, whether to actual Grace Church Members or to anyone who wishes to receive (Audrey Oakes)**

**Other Notes:**

**We are the bedroom community for State College, extensive growth in Potter and Gregg Twps.**

Mission statement:

(Theresa) Seeking, studying, and sharing God's word and applying it to our everyday lives (for a deeper spiritual life?) now and for generations to follow for His glory.

(Here's another) Grace UMC - You're pre-approved for membership! (Great t-shirt slogan)

LOGOS was abruptly stopped (when a change in church leadership was made) and was a very successful, after school Wednesdays till 6pm and included biblically-based lessons with games and a meal all together with the Pastor and some other adults (with best manners) Leigh Pick was involved with the planning and may be able to best explain this. Ran during the school year.

(Pastor Judi) How do we ground ourselves spiritually in a way that changes our goal from "what we can do to benefit GUMC" to "How to we improve the world for God?" Improving our own connection, spiritual in nature, to God so that we are showing this to the community.

Had some difficulty streamlining thinking along the lines of one vision, perhaps mistakenly confusing vision with goals.

Discussion opened by Dan regarding resistance to change and the Ad Board.