

2010 RE VISION PLAN IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vision

Celebrating God's loving presence in historic Old Church,

Mission

We follow the way of Christ to serve the community and foster spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, and joyful song.

Our Beliefs

“Let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.”

Luke 15:23-24—The Parable of the Prodigal Son and His Brother

“When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him.”

Luke 33:10—The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Our faith here at Immanuel is rooted in God's goodness. We see it in this beautiful creation, in our holy space set aside for prayer and worship, and especially in the love among neighbors. We love celebrating God's goodness and love—it feeds our souls.

We also see a world in need of God's goodness. We see a world out of touch with creation, lives too busy for a holy place or holy time, and neighbors in need of love. Our heart goes out to those in need.

Our faith needs expression in closing the gap between the goodness and love we know from God and Jesus Christ, and the needs of this world. We are called to live as active members of the community. The joys and sorrows, hopes and challenges of this community are part of our own lives and the life of our church.

- We must be active, working in our community to close the gap
- Where there is hunger, we must provide food.
- Where there is poverty, we must offer opportunities.
- Where there is spiritual longing, we must provide spiritual direction.
- Where there is brokenness, we must provide healing.
- Where there is despair, we must show force.
- Where there is oppression, we must work for freedom.
- Where the message of Christ is not known, we must proclaim it.

We believe, as people of Christ in our community, that we must work for the health and wholeness of the community, rooted in and sharing the goodness and love of God.

Our Mission Context

Our church reflects our community. In our community there is a sense of stress related to the economy. There is a loss of social structures and spiritual center in our immediate community and the greater world. Relationships within our congregation are strong and our parishioners are relatively satisfied.

We differ from the community regarding worship styles, which creates a barrier between us. Without intentional efforts on our part, this divergence could continue and reinforce the barrier between us and our community. Church members have expressed a desire to look at our worship in order to be more inviting to the community without losing our “Episcopal Traditions”. Church members have expressed concern for many of our children and youth programs. We consider Bible studies important including Adult Sunday School and more opportunities to increase our prayer life..

Our Vision

We live in a community primarily comprised of Boomers, who are highly educated with many talents. We must strive for programs that will use the talents of both church members as well as others in the community. We must recognize that we have barriers which keep us from effectively engaging our community. We need to strengthen how we present ourselves as a worshipping community that loves and cares for the greater community and our neighbors.

We must work to ensure that how we worship meets the needs of both those who are among us and those who are not. We would like for those throughout our community to find our church a place to worship comfortably. Toward that end, contemporary worship forms need to be considered as well as alternative times for worship. We must consider new methods of enriching religious education and spiritual development.

Children are the present and future of our community and our church. Our members have expressed a need for programs that support our children, in a spiritual, recreational and deliberate way. We need to build programs that meet the needs of children and their parents. We must continue to identify and implement effective methods for communicating who we are and what we offer to our community in order to facilitate our growth.

Clearly, we alone cannot do all that is to be done, and we cannot accomplish everything in the first year. We must therefore find ways to partner with other churches and community groups and together develop appropriate programs.

Our Mission

A gap exists between our beliefs and the reality of our mission context. We are called to close the gap through our church’s mission. In order to see our vision become a reality to any degree, we must engage in intentional mission and ministries. With this in mind we believe... ***God calls Immanuel Church to show God’s love.***

First Year Priorities

The committee took all of the suggestions from each group and looked at them to determine what was covered in all groups and what was covered in fewer groups. In almost every case, *all* items were the same for all groups. They may have had a slightly different wording or title, but essentially all of the groups named the same ideas for our focus and work. However, we received many ideas, and we needed to prioritize them. After much prayerful discussion, at the Vestry and Re Vision committee retreat, the Strategic Planning committee and Vestry chose three areas of focus for our

first year:

1. Community outreach/service
2. Worship
3. Communications

Based upon the status of 2011 priorities, the Vestry will determine the priorities for 2012. *This does not mean that we will stop doing the things we are already doing—like Sunday school, our involvement at Cornerstone, and Music in the Old Church, for example. We hope to build on and address these in the years to come.*

Community/Outreach/Service

We will re-purpose Loaves and Fishes committee, our current Outreach Committee. The vestry will appoint a new chair so that this committee will be up and running by November 30, 2010.

1. We are going to create a Garden for the purposes of giving back to the community— we will need to look at issues of a map, fence, water, soil, time, advertising, workers, choice of gardens/crops, chief gardener, flower crop for altar—the committee will work through these details with the goal of planting by March, 2010.
2. We will build a community walking trail—Steve Colvin head this task group. We need to have the first stage in place by September 2011. We need to consider a labyrinth, and also find ways to make it publically available.
3. We will start a recreation league team (probably softball), headed by Jim Trimble and Elayne Gardner. We will include Mt. Zion, Bethlehem and other community churches.
4. Scouts—We will continue to support the troop that we have and seek participation from other local churches. We will look at getting a Girl Scout Troop with the help of Boo Elmore. We will look at helping economically or otherwise disadvantaged children participate in these troops. The Liaison from the Vestry to the Scouts will be responsible for this.
5. Yoga/zumba/scrapbooking/classes—Cheryl Anderson will head up a committee to get classes scheduled and publized so they can start in January 2011.

Worship Recommendations

1. Establish a worship committee that will actively investigate potential styles and schedule changes by researching and learning more about what these alternatives might be; and, in consultation with the vestry and rector, the changes can be implemented on a case by case basis.
2. Committee appointed by the vestry—10 members, including rector and musical director. Eleanor Fukushima will head up this committee.
3. Things to include in discussion:
 1. contemporary service
 2. different times
 3. make worship more user-friendly
 4. continue traditional service and music
 5. quiet time in the sanctuary
 6. What is contemporary? What is traditional?
 7. Estimate 3 months learning and studying worship

8. Hoped change by September 2011

Communications

1. E-Comm will have a strategic plan in place by February 2011 addressing a variety of communications issues, including growing some of the great things already happening, and including but not limited to: website, advertising, signage, bulletin/newsletter, directory of talents
2. Vestry will develop phone tree
3. Need a new hardcopy directory—by December 2010
4. Regular office hours: published by November—by rector and parish administrator
5. In order to enhance communication, the Vestry will reorganize the structure of Immanuel's committees to streamline and improve the way they function by February 2011. Nell will serve as the Vestry-assigned coordinator for enhancing communication with program and committee chairs.

Looking Beyond the First Year

Top priorities for us beyond the first year were also determined. Under each of the following categories, we received many helpful ideas that we will be using in the years to come.

1. Becoming more generationally diverse
2. Programs (focused more on the congregation)
3. Evangelism
4. Programs (focused more on the community)

A Prayer As We Embrace Our New Mission

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*
from The Book of Common Prayer, Easter Vigil, page 291.