

MUMC Connectionalism Strategy Team

09/26/2021

In Person: Linda Horodenski, Will Koehl, Barb Stevens, Liz Shuberte, Dick Vreeland, Andy Bryan, Mary Beth Harper, Chessey Brenton

Zoom: Jim Lange, Ethan Massey, Roxanne Miller

Absent: Becky Strickland

7/29/21: discussed how we define ourselves as a leading congregation

8/26/21:

- 1) Definition of Connectionalism – doing work together that we could not do on our own
- 2) What we do well related to connection
- 3) Raise awareness of how we connect and what our reach is?

Assignment:

Go to www.ManchesterUMC.org/about and www.ManchesterUMC.org/2021-plan

Review the welcome, vision, mission, values statements – how are these embodied in what we do? Do the things we do support the welcome/vision/mission/values?

VISION & MISSION

We are called to be an inclusive community of people who love Christ deeply, worship him passionately, and serve him boldly.

We are called to make a difference for Christ by transforming church and community.

“2021 Plan” Values: The values necessary to successfully accomplish the “2021 Plan” are:

1. Christ focused
2. Shared Accountability
3. Regularly assess progress
4. Celebrate successes and learning
5. Transparent Communication
6. Grow trust and teamwork

Welcome Statement:

We extend God's love and grace to ALL people. Therefore, as we journey toward a greater understanding of one another, we respect our human family's diversity of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, family structure, marital status, socioeconomic status, education, political perspective, faith history and life experience.

Summary review of the four strategic groups. The leaders of those meetings met 9/22 to discuss progress.

Who do we want to be in 2026?

Discuss Mission statement:

- 1) The word "called" is a passive word – needs be active and more precise. (Will) Mission statement long.
- 2) (Chessey) – statement focuses on individual and community levels
- 3) (Jim) – group hesitation to define the statement conveyed difficulty describing
- 4) (Barb) – what we do, not just called. How do leaders and programs follow the Mission. Words not specific.
- 5) Reviewed examples of other churches' Mission statements.
- 6) (Barb) – inclusive – good word to keep
- 7) (Ethan) – reflection on the bold words' impact on new members who may not be ready to be bold and know what to do.
- 8) (Andy) – audiences – people looking at other churches, people new considering MUMC, members of MUMC already
- 9) (Barb) – what is the purpose of the welcome statement? - coming into the church, feel alignment with the welcome statement
- 10) (Roxanne) – hard to convey to everyone in same way. Much "word smithing" over the years.
- 11) (Ethan) – where are the Mission and Vision statements posted in the church?
- 12) (Jim) – Align each statement
- 13) (Dick) – not make statements so narrow that miss other needs
- 14) (Barb) – when developing programs, need for evaluation of how programs align with statements
- 15) (Will) – statements open enough but not too vague
- 16) (Chessey & Barb) – importance of "transform"

(Andy) – what if we name one of our goals as clarifying the Vision/Mission/Welcome?

Connectionalism – Methodist identity? –

- 1) (Barb) – we don't have an altar, we have a table.
- 2) Several shared church backgrounds and perspectives about why Methodist.
- 3) (Andy) – open table, women in leadership, matters what we do and lived out in practice, not being told from on high what to do,

- 4) Big choir, proud of history/heritage – how do we discern why Methodist?
- 5) General state of flux – General Conference, divisions in the church, world flux
- 6) Church changes over time and responds to the need to transform
- 7) (Andy) – responses reflect Methodist perspective

Next Meeting TBA – Doodle will be sent