

Mission and Vision Update

May 16, 2018

As we move forward with staffing conversations, the Church Council is doing so with our stated Mission and Vision clearly in sight. This document, as well as continuing input from the congregation, is moving us forward in a positive manner.

Below are four Mission Narratives, written by our Church Council at their March retreat, which clearly communicate the energy of our four primary mission areas:

Grow Amid Courageous Engagement:

We are excited about the work we do and cherish the community we share through life's ups and downs. We want to share this community with new people, and we want to change and grow with their presence. We commit ourselves to engage with people outside our community, as well as people within Messiah. We will create a welcoming culture and ensure that each person receives the message: There is a place for you here!

Reach Out with Strategic Partnerships:

We recognize that the Auburn community and its population are changing. We care about people and want to provide meaningful resources; therefore, we continue to look for mission compatible partners. We acknowledge as a church family that we have limited resources. To fully implement our mission priorities, we are continuing to reach out to other organizations in the community to form strategic partnerships.

Reach in for Meaningful Service:

As a congregation we will identify a vision for living into Micah 6:8. We will provide opportunities through faith formation, worship, and emerging and established small groups to help congregants discern their Christian calling for service. Through multiple opportunities to serve, we will engage diverse groups of people within Messiah to have the passion and ability to serve others and glorify God.

Nurture through Passionate Spirituality:

We cultivate lively growth in faith for individuals bound together on a journey in a diverse and exciting church community. As we fully share who we are with one another, through respectful conversation and kind action, we envision a community alive with the desire to know and follow Jesus. We commit ourselves to join together in sharing our stories, hearing scripture, praying, and discerning God's call to action in our lives.

As church leaders move forward with decisions related to staffing, debt reduction, and programs affecting congregation members, friends, and our Auburn neighbors, we have the strong and shared foundation of our statements upon which to stand.

Furthermore, church leadership also has available material from the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) to help guide decision making. On the opposite page are the top eight CAT areas. There are notes that allow us to see how we are implementing or might implement, these areas.

CAT Priority Areas for Messiah

Rank	Priority Area	Main Program	Leaders
First. Mean 3.55	Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.	FaithWalk: Follows biblical and contemporary process of belong, behave, and believe to incorporate persons into life of church.	Staffing Decisions by Council and Volunteer Participation
Second. Mean 3.24	Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.	Sunday School, Explorers, and WOW. Change in time for ministry with Auburn's Community in Need	
Third. Mean 3.05	Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.	Internal Care Team Ministry External Wednesday Foodbank Community Supper Sunday Afternoon Program	
Fourth. Mean 3.05	Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners.	School District Partnership Focused Sunday Afternoon Program	
Fifth. Mean 3.03	Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.	?	
Sixth. Mean 3.02	Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.	Possible Debt Reduction Program Training and support of a Stewardship Team	
Seventh. Mean 3.00	Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.	Small Groups, Bible Studies, Sunday School, Wow, Explorers, FaithWalk, Adult Forum, Men's Group	
Eighth. Mean 3.00	Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).	Expand existing Small Group Ministry	