



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SPIRITUAL PLAN 2009



CELEBRATING 176 YEARS
1833—2009

Our mission is to enable disciples to change the world to the glory of God
by living the teachings of Jesus our Christ

OUR PURPOSES ARE THESE:

- 1. Worship - Celebrating God's Blessing and grace as a community.**
Based upon Matthew 22:37-40... *“Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your mind.”*
 - 1.1 Create a variety of spiritually stimulating, biblically focused worship services, where the Word of God is proclaimed and God's love and grace are lived and expressed freely by all members. (WORSHIP TEAM)
 - 1.2 Provide inspirational, worship music that transforms the human spirit toward a closer relationship with our Lord. (WORSHIP TEAM)
 - 1.3 Create an environment where all can feel warmth, love, enthusiasm, hospitality and friendliness and God's love is freely experienced. (CHURCH GROWTH TEAM)
 - 1.4 Investigate utilizing a “contemporary” service for summer worship period.

- 2. Discipleship - Enabling our members to become more like Christ in their actions, thoughts and feelings.** Based upon Matthew 28:19-20...*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*
 - 2.1 Encourage and assist all disciples to grow and develop spiritually by providing biblically-based, educational classes for all age groups. (SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM)
 - 2.2 Conduct periodic prayer marathons for all members, strengthening our capability to trust God and the power of prayer. (HEALTH TEAM)
 - 2.3 Affirm and live the biblical mandate of stewardship, thankful for God's abundant gifts used for God's glory and for God's mission. (RESOURCE TEAM)

- 2.4 Provide highly qualified, professional and spiritual staff members, who can articulate God's vision and lead others to achieve it. (ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD)
- 2.5 Enhance the future ministry of God's church through endowment and estate planning seminar. (ESTATE PLANNING TEAM)

3. Fellowship – Becoming a part of the church family. Based upon Acts 10:48...*“So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”* Also, Ephesians 2:19...*“You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone.”*

- 3.1 Provide monthly, church-wide fellowship opportunities. (FELLOWSHIP TEAM)
- 3.2 Create “entry point” fellowship opportunities for the community. (FELLOWSHIP & CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER TEAM)
- 3.3 Create small groups for study and/or fellowship. (FELLOWSHIP TEAM)
- 3.4 Create fellowship groups for all age groups. (YOUTH MINISTRIES AND FELLOWSHIP TEAMS)
- 3.5 Organize an association of newly retired members. (FELLOWSHIP TEAM)

4. Evangelism – Sharing the Good News of Christ with the world, transforming “seekers to disciples”. Based upon Matthew 28:19...*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

- 4.1 Train members to introduce the unchurched into the fellowship of Christ. (CHURCH GROWTH TEAM)
- 4.2 Enable members to become compassionate and serving disciples. (CARE & NURTURE TEAM)
- 4.3 Get Acquainted seminars to introduce friends to the traditions, missions and ministry of the church.

- 5. Ministry — Demonstrate God’s love to others by meeting the spiritual, emotional, relational and physical needs of people within our community.** Based upon Mark 12:31...*“Love your neighbor as yourself”* and on Ephesians 4:12...*“Equip the saints for the work of the ministry.”*
- 5.1 Continue to fully support social action projects. (OUTREACH TEAM)
 - 5.2 Implement additional, social justice projects. (OUTREACH TEAM)
 - 5.3 Develop action plans that increase the utilization of the Christian Life Center in our greater community. (CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER TEAM)
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SPIRITUAL GROWTH TIMELINE

2008: Accomplishments

- January, 2008.....2008 Kicked Off Capital Campaign
- March, 2008Approved Spiritual Plan and Timetable
- March, 2008Completed Capital Campaign
- April, 2008Conducted 1st 24 hr. Prayer Marathon
- October, 2008.....Completed and Dedicated Renovation of the Sanctuary and Narthex
- November, 2008.....Hosted Community Thanksgiving Service
- November, 2008.....Started Initial Upward Basketball Season
- December, 2008Initial Hosting of Messiah Sing Concert

2009: Accomplishments

- April, 2009Start Building our Ninth Habitat Home
- May, 2009Begin Landscaping Church Grounds
- December, 2009Stabilize Church Operating Budget
- December, 2009Create a 3 year Spiritual Plan that includes facility, staff & resources

2010:

- Winter, 2010Build the Portico
- Winter, 2010Resurface Parking Lot