

Ministry Covenant of St. Paul's UMC Odessa, DE 2010-2011



*“A Christian community for all God’s children
providing pathways for growing in faith and
reaching out with acts of love and compassion”*

To foster our church’s goal of truly living out our mission statement in 2010-2011, the SPRC, in partnership with the Pastor, will assist in and support the following:

Main areas of endeavor will include:

- ✦ Placing our mission statement in a visible way in the church.
- ✦ “Providing pathways for growing in faith” to create an understanding of what discipleship means, particularly emphasizing Wesleyan principles of discipleship.
- ✦ Creating “A Christian community for all God’s children”—by means of evangelism and hospitality, developing an intentionality of invitation and expansive love for others that becomes a part of the culture of St. Paul’s.
- ✦ “Reaching out with acts of love and compassion” supporting and strengthening current missions and ministries, while inviting each person to actively participate in mission and outreach and be open to new opportunities to serve in our community.

Ultimately, we need to assess our short term goals and plan for the future. There is no long-range planning currently at our church. To that end we covenant to pray and vision for the future of the church, developing a strategic plan for the mission of St. Paul’s by convening a Fall Retreat for Church Leaders Fall 2010, utilizing Conference Resource Leaders.

Align our pastoral/congregational covenant with the four themes of General Conference 2008 with specific, tangible actions in:

- ✦ Leadership Development
- ✦ Building New Congregations and Revitalizing Existing Congregations
- ✦ Ministry with the poor, especially with children
- ✦ Combating preventable diseases of poverty, especially malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis

CREATING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN: EVANGELISM

- ✦ Be more visible in the community in which we live through our service to others. To this end SPRC and Council support our participation in the following:
 - Peach Festival in August 2010
 - MOT Big Ball Tournament 2010
 - Annual Chicken Dinner as an opportunity to invite others into a life of discipleship with the congregation
 - Reach out to our neighborhoods and the community to assess needs
- ✦ Evangelism includes training and logistical follow-up in
 - What evangelism means [Several studies are available including *Catch* by Adam Hamilton, *Outflow* & *Just a Walk Across the Room*]
 - How to invite others to church
 - Continue to develop tools [website & other technological tools, brochures & posters around special programs, etc] to assist in this effort
 - Develop a team to encourage the signing of the fellowship pad at every service
 - Continue to recognize our guests in a significant way [Love Notes]; UMW has now offered to assist in this effort.
 - The Lay Leaders and other designees will be intentional to follow up with new guests by sending cards and making calls **within three days** of their attending our church.
 - The Lay Leader and designees will be intentional as we follow up on those individuals absent from worship for 3 weeks in a row.
 - Procure new sign for front of church

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PROVIDING PATHWAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

To facilitate the discipleship of the congregation, SPRC and Council will support small groups that foster new relationships and encourage spiritual growth. These groups will focus on a number of areas to include:

Leadership

- ✦ Pastor will work with a small group of church leaders to deepen their own spiritual journey and commitment to Jesus, working together to cast a vision for the future of the church
- ✦ Encourage a Ministry by Strengths and spiritual gifts training of congregation members
- ✦ Pastor will lead small team to other church leadership events [Leadership Institute October 2010]
- ✦ Strongly encourage church leaders to attend district and conference events
- ✦ Strongly encourage church leadership to attend Bible study or Adult Sunday Studies or both
- ✦ Integrated Sermon and Study series
- ✦ Re-awakening of prayer ministry with church wide study of Rueben Job's book on prayer
- ✦ Regroup efforts to strengthen children's & youth ministry by meeting with Conference Youth Director and implementing recommendations from Parent Summit.
- ✦ Strengthen fellowship & spiritual opportunities for adults
 - M & M's [Mature & Methodist programming in place for 55+ group]
 - Progressive Dinner once a year
 - Men's Bible Study
 - Women's Retreat
- ✦ Intentional Bible study
 - Purposeful growth of Adult Sunday School class
 - A Disciple Bible study/Christian Believer Class to begin in Fall 2010
 - Neighborhood book and scripture studies in parishioner homes ["Taking it to the street"]
- ✦ Maximize our strengths and use what is in our hands:
 - Develop Worship Design Team
 - Strengthen worship arts team and program
 - Be intentional in inviting diverse and cultural mix of music to support our worship services
 - Strengthen United Methodist Women
 - Strengthen Adult Studies
 - Intensify ages 0-3 formation
 - Address need for nursery/child care more creatively

REACHING OUT WITH ACTS OF LOVE AND COMPASSION IN MISSION AND MINISTRIES

- ✦ Emphasize our connected-ness with others, whether local or around the world, whether churchled or unchurched, as we seek to grow our missions and outreach efforts
 - Educate our congregation of the importance of our apportionment and connection to others in The United Methodist Church
 - Dedicate a bulletin board to current mission efforts
- ✦ Intensify efforts to collaborate with other area churches to meet the community needs
 - Network with other United Methodist Churches in MOT
- ✦ Strengthen relationship with Neighborhood House
- ✦ Encourage congregants to develop missions around which they have passion
- ✦ Send 1 mission team by 2010-2011 to an area of need in the continental United States [Nashville, TN]
- ✦ Support Pastor in leading an international Volunteers in Mission Team in 2010 [Nicaragua]
- ✦ Ongoing monetary & personal support for Habitat for Humanity
- ✦ Encourage and participate in development of programs for children at local schools, community centers (Neighborhood House and Boys & Girls Club), especially by St. Paul's youth and children.
- ✦ Continue to address hunger needs through Neighborhood House and Emmanuel Dining Room
- ✦ Support Nothing But Nets at least semi-annually
- ✦ Intentional support of missionaries
 - Provide opportunities to hear the stories of those in service in both local and global mission
 - Encourage and develop our youth and young people to participate in mission opportunities
 - Increase support of Nan McCurdy in Nicaragua by Adult Studies.