

Evangelical UMC
2022
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How Does a Church Thrive?

Books:

Simple Church by Thom S. Rainer & Eric Geiger
Courageous Leadership by Bill Hybels
Vital Signs: a pathway to congregational wholeness by Dan Dick
Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase
Generation Z Unfiltered by Tim Willmore

Opening Prayer and Devotional

Romans 8: 28-29
Plans vs Purpose
What is God's purpose for us?

Tension

Long-term viability

What Does a Healthy Church Look Like?

What does a thriving/healthy church look like:

My formulation - Rootedness + Mission + Vision + Accountability + Passion = Thriving Church

Bishop Schnase's formulation - Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity (I would add Fruitful Fellowship)

Dan Dick's (chapter 4 of *-Vital Signs*) Sense of Identity, Shared Clarity of Purpose, Focus of the Congregation, Awareness and Understanding of God's Vision for the Church, Governing and Guiding Values, Impact Awareness, Leadership, the Role of the Appointed Pastor, Programmatic Design, Organization Structure, Money, the Role of Worship in the Life of the Congregation, the Role of Education in the Life of the Congregation, The Congregation's Relationship to the Community, The Congregation's Relationship to the Connectional System (I'll read summary on pages 111-112).

How Do We Get There?

Defining Mission (purpose)

Simplicity
Everyone Can Remember
Guides Everything

Our Current Mission Statement

The Evangelical United Methodist Church will provide a nurturing and stimulating Christian environment that challenges each of its members to reach out to people with "open hands, open hearts, open doors" and receive them in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate them to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and to send them into the world to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Examples of Mission statements

United Methodist Church - "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Church of the Resurrection - "To Build a Christian community where non-religious and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians"

Example in Simple Church - "Loving God, loving people, and serving the world."

LCBC -We exist to introduce people to Jesus and together fully follow him.

North Point Community Church-Inspire people to follow Jesus by engaging them in the life and mission of North Point Community Church.

Young's (my first appointment) - "Welcome, Worship, Witness"

Vision (how to live out purpose/mission focus)

Possible Vision Foci

Center of the Community
Meals, fellowship activities, opportunities to gather, concerts,
Children
Youth
Single Young Adults
Married Young Adults
Young Adults With Children
Older Adults
A nursing home
A school
Small Groups
Neighborhood Groups
Acts 2 Intentional Community (neo-monasticism)
Offering alternate worship opportunities (possibly other than Sunday)
Partnering with addicts
Partnering with the poor
Creating third spaces
Social Entrepreneurship (ride sharing, laundry mat, food truck)

How do we get visitors?

My formulation - Happenstance + Reputation + Opportunities + Invitation = Visitors

Mission and Vision as a story

Principles from the former StoryBrand Podcast

If you confuse - you lose

Noise is the enemy

Creating a clear message is the best way to grow your business

Some principles from the StoryBrand book

The customer is the hero, not your brand

Companies tend to sell solutions to external problems, but customers buy solutions to internal problems

Customers aren't looking for another hero; they're looking for a guide

Never assume people understand how your brand can change their lives. Tell them.

Presidential Campaign slogans as mission and stories

Evaluating Our Practices of Ministry - the Fundamentals

Is our hospitality radical?

Is our worship passionate?

Are we intentional in our faith development?

Is our mission and service risk-taking?

Are we showing extravagant generosity?

How Do We Move Forward?

Initial Discernment

Prayer

Adam's Hamilton's Questions

Why Jesus?

Why the church?

Why your church?

My Questions

What do we do well?

Who does not have a real relationship with a church in our community?

What is breaking God's heart in our community?

What is breaking your heart?

When you look at Middletown, what upsets you?

What are our gifts?

What do I like to do?

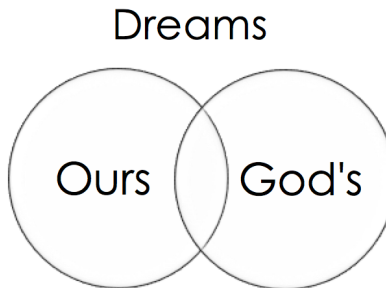
When was a time in our church when we were at our best? Why were we at our best?

If money and volunteers were not issues, what do you think we should do?

What adjectives would you use to describe the ministries of our church?

Where would Jesus be doing ministry in our community?

What gives us life?
What are our dreams?
What are our passions?
What do we think are God's dreams and passions? For us?



Process

Prayer

Meeting or Retreat Topics

Starting at the end-What might an end result look like? (look at my proposed mission/vision/process document)

Strengths/Weaknesses/Assets/Threats

Life cycle of a church

Who is our neighbor?

Reaching the next generation

Our past

If we could do anything...

Conversations with community leaders

Crafting a compelling message

Mission/Vision/Next Steps

My Hopes

We pray

We meet

We discern a mission/vision in the form of a compelling story

We discern next steps that are low stakes (unless we discern a BHAG)

Next steps would include

worship

missions

outreach

discipleship

We discern a discipleship process

We discern a leadership training process

We thrive in God's purpose for us

Are you willing to meet again?

Closing Thought (Malachi 4: 1-2)

Closing Prayer