

ENVISION GOD'S FUTURE

A MINISTRY DREAMING RETREAT

United Methodist Church of Vista

Identity

To be an authentic, accessible & inclusive community of Christ, celebrating and extending God's love into the world

Mission

Grow strong persons of faith who go out & offer Christ's love to the world

Values

Caring, spiritual, growth, inclusiveness, tradition, community

Let's Build a Boat!

What would our church be like if we were a boat?

Fishing Boat, First Mates: Frank and Warren

- God at the tiller working through Pastor Leigh Ann & pastoral staff to steer the rudder
- Diversity of people on deck doing the work of the boat
- People down below deck are support folks (cooks, supplies, helpers) and even people who are along for the ride
- Our children are also on the boat
- Our sails are Powered by the wind of the Holy Spirit
- Visionaries on Crow's Nest showing us which way to go
- Jesus (cross) is our primary offering
- In surrounding waters & dry land are people in need of help, some who want to join,
- Who should be on the boat: We want more of everything - more diversity, wide age range, more people in the "gap" between our two predominant generation might be our rich fishing ground!
- God is calling us to steer into deeper waters instead of still waters - more great things outside the doors of this church, not just great things inside the doors of this church - we're heading in the right direction to do just that



Mary
Scifres
INSPIRE | INNOVATE | GROW

Ferry Boat, First Mate: Martha

- “It’s a Love Boat”
- Little children
- We want people of all diversity - rainbow of colors, people of color, LGBTQ community
- Love, Justice, Mercy, Compassion, & Forgiveness are on our boat - we want all people to receive these things on our boat
- Bible is on our boat as well
- Our captain is the cross of Jesus - we follow the cross of Jesus - God, Holy Spirit, Christ
- Pastor Leigh Ann is driving the boat
- Waters are typical ocean waters, people swimming in the waters, shark (Satan) is in the water as well
- God is calling us to steer toward all people of the church working together, young & old - more intergenerational activities will get us there (ie family retreat)
- God is calling us to teach people how to walk in other people’s shoes - compassion & empathy
- God is calling us to reach out to more children & youth
- God is calling us to do things out of love for God - let love for God lead our actions

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Sailboat, First Mate: Dakota

- Sailboat with First Mate Dakota
 - Prayer is our rudder (Christ in our hearts)
 - Weather changes every day
 - Our oars represent our committees, members, & congregation - most going in the same direction, some steering in other directions - but soon we'll all be going in the same direction
 - Clergy are leading our boat - guiding our direction
 - In surrounding waters are people, community needs - people on the boat are looking for how we can reach & serve those people
 - God is calling us to missionary work & Christian service outside of our church and to develop a welcoming ministry
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Rowboat, First Mate:

- All people on the boat are working, helping to row the boat
 - Lots of people in surrounding waters, so we have a lifeboat to reach those people
 - Boat is driven by the cross
 - Rudder is steered by Pastor Leigh Ann - Rudder is the Cable Fund
 - God is calling us to steer toward increased membership, a method for doing so, increased ministry of outreach & work toward total church membership participation
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Happy Boat, First Mate: Billy

- We need a compass, we need direction
- Boat is full of happy, comfortable people
- Called to steer into the community to develop authentic relationships & ways for those relationships to engage their faith

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Sailboat, First Mate: Diane

- Sailboat guided by the Holy Spirit with First Mate Diane
- Our boat is big, up above the water
- One sail guides our boat with Music Ministry, Financial Resources & Clergy
- Another sail needs attention for Homeless Ministry, Membership Ministry to really fill our boat with speed and energy - we want to grow our membership
- Members are on the boat
- Called to steer more outward and into the community with a clearer image of how we convey our presence to the community - how we reach a diverse number of groups, including children & family-age people

Canoe, First Mate: Debbie

- Canoe with First Mate Debbie
- Paddles are going in lots of different directions which means we're often stuck
- Congregation is on the boat, paddling hard
- Pastor Leigh Ann is in the back steering, surrounded by committees, committee chairs, Pastors Frank & Beckie, music & children's ministries
- Outside the boat floating along - sports, minorities, universal church, LGBTQ community, homeless, community at large, young adults
- Sun shines on us all
- Called to steer toward more focused outreach & more consistent in reach caregiving

Word Boat, First Mate:

- Sailboat, powered by the wind
- We have no sails, because our team isn't working well enough to hoist the sails and get the boat moving - we're kind of stuck
- Hoping wind will pick up & team will start working together
- Nice people on the boat, long-time faithful people, kids & young people
- Flames of the Holy Spirit are there to guide us
- Currently guided by our Pastor & traditions (not an anchor)
- We'd like more diversity on the boat (traditionalists, boomers, millennials, post-millennials)
- We want Holy Spirit, traditions, Pastor & leaders working together to guide us
- Called to steer our boat: Outside our walls

Where is God Calling You to Steer Your Boat?

Work Together

Welcoming Ministry

Diversity

Children and Youth

Outside Ourselves

Community

Intergenerational Ministries

Steer in Same Direction

Caring In-reach

Leadership

NOW HEAR THIS - Headlines of Our Dream Ministries!

'UMC of Vista Blows Out its doors'

- we are enthusiastic in our praise, hold spiritual growth meetings & in home book meetings, with actions in the community and in the world
- Spreads out into community with singing and enthusiastic praise for good. Prayers and making disciples with actions in community and world.
- Spiritual growth of congregation
- Care for others in soup kitchens, operation hope, etc.
- Study Classes

'UMCV is Now the Hub of North County'

- Community outreach serve in all areas and services, homeless, worship, Christian Ed, Family Life, Welcoming Church to All
- H for heart, U for understanding, B for brother and sisterhood
- For youth + families
- Christian Education
- Growing in Christian Faith
- Welcoming Church to all
- Thats H.U.B. for Heart, Understanding Brother + Sisterhood

'UMCV at Home in Vista'

- Church involved in multiple facets of community, involved in the lives of homeless, farmers marketing, community farming, tutoring, low-income preschool, after-school programs, Summer programs,
- Helping those in the community who have a difficult time helping themselves

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'UMCV Now Includes All of No. Co. in their Ministry'

- UMCVista: Hub of No. co. Service Assistants
 - Double Homeless feeding weekly
 - Tutoring for all ages
 - Education
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'UMCV Provides Help to Many in Community' ~ 'Outreach to the Unchurched'

- Provide services to people who are not members
 - Reached out to others in community to help provide the services
-

'UMCV Builds 500 Transitional Homes for Families'

- State of the art, LEED certified, meals and health services, all located on old Lowe's land
-

'UMCV Successfully Making a Difference'

- Leading presence in the community, diverse group
 - Doing something Successfully
 - Making a difference in the community and church
 - Listening and Responding leading UMCV to make connection w/ community therefore leading into productive relationships and work through the community
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'UMC Vista Celebrates Successes

- Membership increases
- Youth and Adults attend mission trips and experience
- financial stability - providing grants \$8,000,000
- Sports/athletic events support of...
- Outreach to all areas of community - including services to the homeless
- Inclusiveness of many fold in their congregation - LGBTQ
- Multiple services
- Bible study throughout the week
- 2 campus ministry centers - each providing multiple + worship
- Both centers to be used fully and completely by all
- Specific services - multiple worship services, bible study throughout the week- low income/ homeless housing site attached to one of the centers along w/ the extra social services needed to meet those needs.

'UMCV Succeeds in Increasing Church Membership'

- Membership increases, VBS increase, Youth increase, has provided \$8 in community grants, vibrant and growing choir, inclusion of many different folk in the congregation
 - Address and adjust to the changes in society, to attract new, younger members.
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‘UMCV Celebrates Its First Year as a Reconciling Church’

- Join us for a festival open to *all* people to celebrate
 - Come learn about all our programs and how we can help you!
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‘Barriers Broken’

- LGBTQ counseling for teens
 - Gay Chorus
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Feeding those who are hungry for food, for spiritual growth, for friendship and acceptance, for health concerns, for jobs, for the unchurched.
 - Utilize the corner on melrose
 - Electronic sign for special events
 - Downstairs gym and or preschool
 - Coffee shop on campus 6- 8 am for meetings and meditation
 - Scripture journaling opportunities
 - kitchen for homeless and congregation
-

‘Reconciling Minister at UMCV’

- UMCV welcomes all gender diversity: young, old, rich, poor, age, gender, ethnicity
- All faiths welcome here - muslim, jewish, eastern
- Invite neighbors children to come to church with you. Then invite parents to see the programs the children are in!
- Invite your children friends to come to church. The more the Merrier!
- “ Suffer the little children to come unto me” Bring children to observe the values, songs, gifts of love, kindness, acceptance to all - especially to LGBTQ children
- Enfold all of God’s children with God’s love

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Additional Ideas/Dreams & Visions to consider

- It remains vital for UMC vista to expand through planned ministries for our community
- To expand our welcoming area upstairs for fellowship
- To expand our nursery facilities near worship and on the main floor, making it easier for parents to be close to their children
- I think a great idea would be to have the beautiful big window in the sanctuary lit up like a Christmasy tree every night! It could become a beacon and very welcoming as so many cars go by and seen from window across the street. Instead of church being dark at night it would look warm and bright
- An electronic sign on the corner of our street
 - Vista United Methodist Church
 - Welcome Everyone!
 - 9:00 Modern Service 11:00 Classic Service
 - 9:15 Sunday School - Bible Study
 - Prayer Service, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, UMW, Feed the Hungry
- Better communication for full congregation about those who are suddenly ill, in accidents, or experiencing- grief (Hearing them in pastor prayers Sunday not enough; hearing about it informally during fellowship time is not enough)

Q+A

How are We Going to Get Unstuck?

- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Dreaming Out Loud
- Then we develop the strategic plan then action plan to live our these dreams, what the Holy Spirit has revealed to us

How Do We Get More Members and More Funds?

- By determining which of these dreams is what God is calling us to do
- Moving in that direction together
- Common sense of shared purpose and clarity will grow our church
- Our shared energy will attract new persons
- People will be able to join and serve along with the church
- Funds & numerical growth follow spiritual growth, and begins with current members & mature Christians
- Growth in generosity and community leads to increased giving
- The people who will join us will share that energy, abundance
- Lead with your own spiritual growth
- Business mindset is not what we lead with; business mindset and focusing on our shared purpose helps us row effectively, powerfully, in the same direction
- Christ Jesus leads us

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Will Be Looking at Our Committee Leadership to Include in the Process?

- This will be a factor during the action planning and implementation
- These groups will be consulted to input and participation

What Would Happen if We Became Reconciling?

- The church would grow if it is a part of what God is calling us to do and we have a strategic plan and purpose for reaching out as an inclusive community
- Make sure you are in conversation with Church Council and Gap Team to make sure we are all rowing in the same direction and are coordinated
- Talk to larger church before you start implementing and a new idea
- We don't want to do too many good things moving us simultaneously in different directions

Additional Questions submitted in written form after the event *(to be addressed by GAP Team)*

- Will we review the current programs/events, asking these questions of each one?

What committee is in charge?

Are they effective?

Are they purposeful in the church?

Examples:

1) Trunk or Treat- This is organized by education but it is not educational, it is community outreach

2) Family game night- who attends this? What is its expectation/purpose?

3) All church camp- why hasn't it worked the last few years?

Timing? Itinerary? Location? Does it still serve purpose?

- Will we examine current offerings? Examples might be:
 - Does Sunday School curriculum fulfill desires?
 - Lessons, music
 - Music
 - Is music choice what is desired by existing congregation and incoming visitors
 - Use of current space
 - ex: Does narthex layout promote easy understanding of who UMC Vista is and what we have to offer?

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RETREAT PARTICIPANTS

Paula Amaro, Larry Averell, Lenore Averell, Diane Biggs, Chris Clarke, Luene Corwin, Norm Corwin, Deb Forbis, Colleen Guffey, John Haase, Frank Hallock, Sandy Harvey, Beckie Henselmeier, Jacque Howard, Sue Humphrey, Tom Humphrey, Kathy Johnson, Sherry Johnston, Vic Johnston, Nadina Kaina, Heidi Kendall, Bonnie Lambert, Raub Mathias, Merry Nickerson, Katie Pierce, Robbie Pierce, Helen Robertson, Bill & Ruth Rockwell, Jim Rogers, Margo Rogers, Pat Rose, Marth Treutle, Brenda Walker, Gail Wills, Nancy Winters, + GAP Team Members

GAP TEAM MEMBERS

Jim Wills, Mike Walker, Billy Stempson, Barbara Mitchell, Susan Kronoff, Dakota Koenig, Beth Breinard Hallock, Warren Elsasser, Lyn Berry, Margene Haase, Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw, Consultant Mary Scifres

GAP TEAM MEMBERS will integrate this retreat work into a Ministry Plan that will inform our building usage plans as well as ministry goals for our future together.