

Strategic Direction IV

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV)

"We will accept a range of theological diversity through a variety of means including multidimensional worship experiences, and diverse opportunities for fellowship, education, sharing and outreach."

- a. Introduce blended, multisensory elements into the format of one of the church services
 - Achieve local recognition
 - Bring-in live artists for music.
 - Strive for a message that touches, music that moves, service that changes
 - Establish a praise band to play for special church events and can be a seed for long-term alternative worship.
 - Encourage worship participants, teachers, acolytes, choir members, coffee hosts, greeters, ushers, and musicians to arrive early with eagerness to prepare together and encourage each other.
 - Take pride enough in our church home that we want others to be a part of
 - Prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for worship. Arrive early to prepare our mindset for holy, passionate and exciting worship. Set aside our Sunday morning for God, being free of church business and other business for the love of God and giving our best for God in worship
 - Join, attend, support and lead small group bible studies and classes
 - Make a point to know everyone so that we can know and greet those who are new.
 - Be passionate worshippers, understanding that the presence of Christ in the service is dependent on the attitude of those present
- b. Provide diverse opportunities for fellowship
 - Provide new and varied programs adapted to the needs of new members, visitors and people not yet attending the church including special topics and interests that attract unchurched people
 - Explore new young adult faith groups that can meet separately such as college students, young working singles, young married, young families
- c. Provide diverse opportunities for education
 - Offer programs, seminars and workshops on sound personal financial management, managing excessive debt, financial planning, estate planning, preparing wills.
 - Look into on-line faith opportunities, such as bible studies
- d. Add Praise Services
 - Plan for and provide funding for a Praise Ministry leader
 - Hire a Praise Ministry Leader for new worship initiatives
 - Plan changing format of one of the church services or adding "blended", multisensory service
- e. Provide diverse opportunities for outreach
 - Develop outreach ministries that are suitable to be funded by foundations.

Strategic Direction V

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

"We will be advocates for peace and justice"

- a. Be advocates for immigration issues
 - Good Schools initiative to advocate equal educational opportunities for areas where immigrants live
 - Establish an ESL & Immigrant Ministries
- b. Be advocates for health Issues
 - Encourage programs for congregants to get involved with world health legislation
 - Provide support for Roca Eterna
- c. Be advocates for environmental justice
 - Have the children and youth define a plan for making our building more energy-efficient and reducing the organization's carbon impact.
 - Prioritize and enhance the children and youth plan for making our building more energy-efficient and reducing the organization's carbon impact.
 - Fund a plan for making our building more energy-efficient and reducing the organization's carbon impact
- d. Grow the Latino Connection locally and in Latin America with a focus on literacy, health and nutrition.
 - Establish an exchange of news and active communication with Roca Eterna
 - Explore health care needs in Ahuachapan, El Salvador to identify mission opportunities.
- e. Be advocates for peace
 - Encourage programs for congregants to get involved with world peace organizations

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Strategic Ministry Action Plan
April 2008

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18(KJV)

Mission and Vision Statements

When Berwyn United Methodist developed the Vision-2000 plan, we developed the following Mission Statement which remains our mission statement today:

Berwyn United Methodist Church Mission Statement

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community of Christian believers that:

- Invites
- Nurtures
- Encourages Service

The Mission Statement is what we believe we are here for and why we exist. A Vision Statement establishes the direction for achieving our mission.

Building on our mission statement, the congregation and members comprising a Strategic Planning team in 2007 developed a Vision Statement that provides a picture of what BUMC will strive to be in the future as a guide around which to form our programs and organize our efforts.

Berwyn United Methodist Church Vision Statement

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to be a caring and transforming community of faith that embraces sojourners at all points of their journey.

We will provide opportunities to discover and use our gifts to serve Christ.

We will focus on spiritual development and growth.

We will accept a range of theological diversity through a variety of means including multidimensional worship experiences, and diverse opportunities for fellowship, education, sharing and outreach.

We will be advocates for peace and justice.

Strategic Direction I

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 16-20 (NIV)

"With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to be a caring and transforming community of faith that embraces sojourners at all points of their journey."

- a. Establish relationships with other churches, with special focus to establish two-way relationships with African American and Latino congregations
 - Provide joint fellowship with sister churches
 - Combine vacation bible school
 - Establish communications exchange of calendars and events with other local churches with which we establish relationships
 - Establish sister relationship and programs for gifts combined outreach, Pair-up families
 - Plan joint music and worship events
 - Establish Lay Leader relationship
 - Help identify Latino church and establish Pastoral relationship
- b. Provide cross-generational interaction opportunities both internally and externally to the congregation.
 - Find ways other committees can help cross generational interaction beyond Advent Fair, Lenten Fair, Hanging of the Greens and Rally day.
 - Intergenerational activities
 - Companion youth study and mission study (children, youth, adult working on the same project)
- c. Strengthen and expand Children's' ministry
 - Promote a learning environment so our children can hear about God and learn stories of faith through reading, discussion, songs, crafts, drama and other ways of fun learning and so families become more involved in the life of the church.
 - Focus the program with the eye of a newcomer or first-timer to our Sunday morning
 - Establish a Sunday Morning Host to guide new families to classes
 - Restore funding for Children's Ministry Coordinator
 - Hire a Children's Ministry Coordinator
- d. Expand the breadth of congregational care so that more people are participating and helping
 - Find ways to let people know what is happening, what is needed and how to help
 - Consider new support ministries: Emergency response, Stephens Ministry, Christ Servant Ministry, Funeral Care, Grief Care including training
- e. Outreach to young adults, including local college students and young people in the working community
 - Maintain contact with all young people once they leave high school
 - Hire a part-time college student, provide guidance and volunteer support staff for college outreach
 - Establish relationships with University Christian Groups Such as Campus Crusade for Christ

Strategic Direction II

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)

"We will provide opportunities to discover and use our gifts to serve Christ."

- a. Recruiting leaders and leadership development
 - Develop leadership for the future; expand the pool of individuals in leadership positions.
 - Establish a continuous annual goal of at least 10 new graduates of Disciple Bible Study per year.
 - Establish a continuous annual goal of at least one offsite retreat with at least 10% of the congregation participating
- b. Establishing an Equipping Ministry
 - Research, plan and execute Spiritual Gifts Training for all church leaders.
 - Assist all members in linking their gifts and talents with service opportunities within the church
- c. Organizational streamlining
 - Establish a re-structuring committee to collapse or streamline the leadership structure
- d. Christ Servant Ministry training and Stephens Ministry training
 - Establish a continuous annual goal of at least 1 new entry into Christ Servant Ministry training per year.
 - Re-establish the Stephens Ministry program at Berwyn
- e. Vision-specific guidance documents developed by and for functional committees
 - Task the committees to develop a mission, guidance, goals document for their areas and report on progress
 - Focus on funding programs to make the church such a vital and integral part of our lives that we would want to put it first in our financial planning.
 - Make Berwyn a place where the congregation is encouraged to give with the trust that doing so is one of the best investments they could make in human society and allocate the funds received to make it so
 - Constantly search for new ways to make the church look fresh, appealing, inviting, easy to navigate, safe, clean and attractive
 - Review Committee purpose statements with respect to the church mission and vision and introduce meetings with words or prayer that focus and remind others of the mission goal or purpose within the context of the love of God and asking continuously if we are fulfilling our church function with excellence in a manner worthy of the mission God has given us in Christ

Strategic Direction III

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing." 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

"We will focus on spiritual development and growth."

- a. Develop a core of leaders who teach and develop others
 - Establish a Nurture Committee or a defined program for nurture
- b. Develop broad participation in the study of scripture
 - Establish small covenant groups, neighborhood groups
 - Offer bible studies, short-term topical studies, support groups, pre-packaged learning, camps, retreats to help people probe God's will for their lives and strengthen the Body of Christ to press-on to grow, change, cultivate and mature in faith.
 - Invest in programs that are outwardly focused, towards younger people, towards more diverse people
- c. Maintain Bible Study Sunday School Classes
 - Establish educational oversight: Pre-school through 12th Grade for educational completeness and consistency.
 - Offer adult educational completeness of program offerings.
 - Establish faith-based events and opportunities including adult bible study opportunities on Sunday and during the week
- d. Offer Disciple Bible Study in conjunction with other churches in the area
 - Establish partner churches to share educational opportunities
- e. Continue developing leaders who teach and develop others
 - Provide funding for a Director of Christian Education
 - Hire Director of Christian Education.
 - Hire Director of Leadership Development