

Conversations about
CELC Mission
Vision
Values

Agenda

- Quick Review of Context (5 minutes)
 - Transition/Call Process
 - History
 - Review Definitions
 - Bible Study findings
- Review of Previous Meetings (5 minutes)
 - Results of Mission Statement Conversation
 - Results of Vision Conversation
- Small Group Discussion on CELC Values
- Readout Results, General Discussion, and Wrap-up

Transition/Call Process

- Phase 1 – Work with Synod on immediate needs – Completed
- Phase 2 – Transition Process – In Progress
 - **Intentional Intern – Pastor Kim assigned**
 - **Self-Study – Bible studies, history session, these meetings**
 - Send report to council from transition team (vision, mission, values)
 - Begin Ministry Site Profile
- Phase 3 – Call Process
 - Call Committee Selected (Council & Congregation)
 - Finalize MSP and send to Synod for approval
 - Synod provides names of candidates/Call Committee Interviews
 - Call Committee recommends candidate to Council
 - Congregation votes on candidate
 - Call extended to candidate which the candidate can accept or reject

Why these meetings – Self Study

- Primary goal of Transition team to create accurate view of CELC
- Be able to “characterize” CELC
 - Who/what we have been (History)
 - Who/what we are today
 - Who/what we want to be in future
- Key to developing Ministry Site Profile
 - Key input to the call process
 - Assists Synod in identifying potential candidates
 - Assists potential candidates in determining their interest/match to CELC
- Accurately reflect how CELC views its role in the body of Christ
- Report to Church Council & Call Committee

Transition Team Members

- Ann Bruce (chairperson)
- Patsy Blankenship
- Olga Blanchard
- Jim Erickson
- Stevie Henderson
- Karen Olson
- Les Stubbs

- Please contact any of us with questions

History

- Past provides A Context for our Future (Vision)
- First 50 Years – 1953 to 2003
 - 1953 - CELC founded, February
 - First church to be incorporated in the city of Goodyear
 - 1956 – First building finished (Building A)
 - 1950's-late 1990's – several pastors, community church
 - By late 90's congregation shrinking
 - 1998 - Pastor Jeff Gallen installed
 - 2003 - Outreach program (food pantry) started by church members
 - Shared our facilities with a Reformed Catholic Church
 - Celebration of 50 years

History (continued)

- Last 23 Years
 - 2005 – Adopt-a-Cop started
 - 2009 – Ground breaking for Building B (Open Arms Center)
 - 2000-2020 – growth of congregation
 - Many from retirement communities (including seasonal members)
 - Started renting our facilities to other congregations (now a total of 4)
 - Provided space for many support organizations
 - Continued growth of Outreach programs (I-Help, Food Pantry)
 - 2020-2022 – Covid shutdown
 - Led to decline in attendance which continues today
 - Started streaming services online
 - Second service never resumed
 - 2024-2025 - Pastor Jeff retired and transition process began

Definitions

- A **vision statement** is more about **becoming**:
 - Pictures the future of your church as God has planned it to be
 - Describes the results you hope you will realize in the “real world”
 - Captures the uniqueness that God has given your church
- A **mission statement** is more about **doing**:
 - Tells something about your purpose as a part of the larger body of Christ
 - Hints at how you will make your vision a reality
 - It is short, motivational, and easy to memorize
- **Core values** are more about **being**:
 - Each one will describe what people experience in your congregation
 - Together they capture the uniqueness which is your congregation
 - They are fundamental to the beliefs and lived out

Bible Study Findings

- Nehemiah
 - Spiritual renewal
 - Respect for God; Responsibility to the community; Communication to God through prayer
- Acts
 - Reach all of mankind with the message of salvation through Christ
 - Fulfillment of God's promises
 - Advance God's promises through prayer
 - Holy Spirit energizes and equips us to carry out God's Mission in the world
 - Community, mutual support, trust
- First Letter to the Corinthians
 - Acceptance, tolerance, charity and respect
 - Christ-centered
 - Welcoming to all

Results from Conversation on Mission Statement

- Current mission statement
 - “We are a Christian fellowship reaching out to all people, so they might experience God’s love for them.”
- Findings from 2/16 Meeting
 - No need to rewrite – most people felt it accurately reflects who CELC is
 - Some small wording suggestions
 - Change the word “might” to “may” or leave out the word completely
 - Make the statement more definitive
 - Use “all” instead of “they”
 - To make it both internally and externally focused
 - Change “experience” to “see, know, and experience”
 - Transition Team will finalize and recommend any changes to Council

Results from Conversation on Vision

- **A vision statement is more about becoming:**
- Potential Vision Statement
 - “To be a Christian fellowship that is Spirit-led and engaged in participation and service to our congregation and the larger community.”
- Items with General consensus from 2/23 Meeting
 - Want to see younger, more diverse families with children
 - Wider variety of activities for children, youth, and seniors
 - Increased adult education opportunities
 - Expanded Outreach programs
 - More “advertising” in the community (including social media)

Results from Conversation on Vision (cont)

- Other items mentioned at 2/23 Meeting
 - Community participation
 - Continue our great music program
 - Better “mentoring of new members”
 - Adding back a second service
 - Possibility of Children’s Sermon before leaving for Sunday School
 - Continuing our tolerance and acceptance of all people
 - Finding a pastor who is younger, experienced, and bilingual
- Consensus that the mission statement is consistent
 - Nothing came out that impacts our mission statement conversation from 2/16

Values Discussion

- **Core values** are more about **being**:
 - Communicate what CELC stands for and on what principles it operates
- Proposed Vision Statement

“To be a Christian fellowship that is Spirit-led and engaged in participation and service to our congregation and the larger community.”
- Proposed Mission statement

“We are a Christian fellowship, reaching out to all people, so that all may see, know and experience God’s love for them.”
- Values Discussion in small groups (15-20 minutes)
 - Individually write down 3-5 words (or 2-3 word phrases) that describe what values you think should guide CELC
 - Share with group and discuss as a group
 - As a group, condense to the five core values of CELC

Wrap-up

- Readout from each discussion group (by recorder)
 - Wait for the hand microphone
- General Discussion
 - Identify the commonalities between the groups
 - Identify any differences
 - Discuss if they are consistent with Vision and Mission statements
- Next steps
 - Transition team considers feedback from meeting
 - Report back to congregation
 - Document findings in report to Council
 - Input to Ministry Site Profile