

Conversations about CELC Mission

Vision

Values

Agenda

- Transition/Call Process
 - Why are we having these meetings
 - Introduce Transition Team
- Review Definitions
- Bible Study findings
- Results of Mission Statement Conversation
- History Timeline (?)
- Small Group Discussion on Vision for CELC
- Readout Results, General Discussion, and Wrap-up
- Next Meeting
 - March 2 – Values/Goals

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

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
- 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 last week

- 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

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

Vision Discussion

- **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
- Think big
- Dream about what God desires for CELC
- Break into Small Groups
 - Need one person to act as recorder
- What do you hope CELC will be like in 5 years (10 minutes)
- What do you hope CELC will be like in 10 years (10 minutes)
- Is our mission statement consistent with this vision (5 minutes)

Wrap-up

- Readout from each discussion group (by recorder)
 - Wait for the hand microphone
- General Discussion
- Next steps
 - Transition team considers feedback from meeting
 - Provide input to Values Meeting
 - Document findings in report to Council
 - Input to Ministry Site Profile
- March 2 – Values/Goals