



THE ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VISION STATEMENT

OCTOBER 2011

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4D VISION PROCESS

The History of the 4D Vision Process

Last year, the St. Luke's Church Council began a process to discern what God's plan was for the church over the next three to seven years. As a congregation we felt we were receiving a call of the Spirit to reassess our priorities and begin an intentional process to determine how we as 3D People (Deeply Devoted Disciples of Jesus Christ) could dream and discover God's destiny for St. Luke's over the next five years.

We began a strategic visioning process in late 2010 which challenged us to consider the possibilities of transforming St. Luke's from an attractional to a missional congregation. During Lent 2011, we asked the congregation to help us discover our strengths by sharing what keeps them returning to St. Luke's, what inspires them about being a part of the congregation, asking for specific focus for where our church can create significant community change and dreaming about what others will think about St. Luke's five years from now.

The "4D Process for 3D People" affirmed our mission, vision and core values but also declared that we as a congregation felt called to set ambitious new goals and strategic vision for our missional future. Through the thoughts shared by our congregation, six "world changing" ideas were born and became a resulting Vision. This Vision Statement will serve as the basis for a multi-year Strategic Plan Overview so that we can continue to answer God's calling for our lives through ministry and connection at St. Luke's.

We invite you to read this Vision Statement Summary, think and pray about it and discuss this new direction for St. Luke's with your fellow members of the congregation. Through this Vision, we will continue "Building the Kingdom by Building Disciples" in greater ways than we ever imagined.

Why did we choose this strategic direction?

- Each Strategy aligns with St. Luke's Core Values of Christ centered Hospitality, Acceptance, Community, Discipleship and Service.
- Each Strategy aligns within one of the six mission essentials which are the essential organizational ministry strategies to help us fulfill St. Luke's Vision of "Building the Kingdom by Building Disciples".
- Each strategy is rooted in Biblical teaching and our Wesleyan heritage
- Each strategy was developed based on the results of input received from the congregation during our Lenten worship series "4D Future for 3D People". Results showed strong commitment to our core values, a desire to reach demographics not embraced or underserved by the church, broaden community awareness of the ministries and culture of St. Luke's, grow deeper in discipleship and congregational connection, and create significant community change.
- Each strategy aligns with an understanding of our community demographics, shifts in economic and community priorities, research and understanding of best practices for long term community change, growth and connection and a desire to continue to be a church that works in partnership with others in "Building the Kingdom by Building Disciples".

How will we know we are making progress on the Vision?

As this strategic Vision is implemented, the Church Council and church ministries will develop measurable outcomes for each strategy so that adjustments can be made as needed. Progress will be seen in so many tangible ways:

- In a growing congregation that reflects the diverse community within which we serve through culture, economics, needs, age and lifestyle.
- In the faces of those we serve, as they receive help, hope and love.
- Through the changed lives as we impact entire communities.
- By what we hear from others as they refer to St. Luke's as a leader in providing reconciliation, welcome, support and assistance.
- How we feel in our hearts as we continue to build the Kingdom here on earth.

World Changing Idea: SPEAK LOVE ALOUD

We will intentionally REACH people who feel unwanted, disengaged from relationships with God or disconnected with the church, in order to grow together as a church reflective of acceptance, hospitality and love.

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

What does this strategic direction mean for us?

Statistics show a high percentage of the population believes in God, while a very low percentage is involved in a local church. Many find a disconnect between what they know of Christ and those who claim to be his followers. Demographics of the population are missing completely from the life of faith communities, and St. Luke's in particular. To reach these people, the church must tear down barriers and prejudices that make others feel unwanted or unloved and embrace diversity in all forms of human experience and condition.

Therefore we will:

- **Erase Prejudices and Build Bridges**

Create a culture of holy conferencing through ongoing dialogue and growth groups for the purpose of learning, listening and building respectful community. Our congregation will become a model for reconciliation of race, lifestyle, culture and economics for others.

- **Marketing and Partnering with Underrepresented Communities**

Strategic marketing and creation of new worship, small groups, service opportunities and support networks will seek to specifically reach young adults, as well as diversity of culture, race, lifestyle and economics underrepresented at St. Luke's.

- **Connect and Mentor**

Close the back door of St. Luke's for those who visit and leave unnoticed, engage and mobilize the congregation of St. Luke's by creating a systematic and relational approach to connect people with other members as a conduit for helping people through support, spiritual growth and service opportunities.

World Changing Idea: TAKE JESUS ON THE ROAD

We will provide radical change for children and the communities in which they live by leveraging the community and DEPLOYING St. Luke's disciples.

"Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

What does this strategic direction mean for us?

The overwhelming top answer for priorities was affecting positive change for children in our community. However, significant change for children will only happen if their overall environment is impacted.

Therefore we will:

- **Identify specific goals for the individual child**

Improve the lives of children through adoption, foster care, sponsoring, educating and reducing hunger.

- **Support families**

Stabilize families in targeted communities by empowering them with healthy living tools and an increased sense of belonging.

- **Train Laity for Community Redevelopment Initiative**

Equip laity to be effective in a community redevelopment initiative through training which will prepare them for engaging across class, cultural, racial, and language divides in a way that is empowering and uplifting for all.

- **Target one Neighborhood for a Community Redevelopment Initiative**

Focus St. Luke's diverse local mission ministries in one location for community re-development to create change which can be measured through specific area health indicators by fostering broad participation and leveraging local and St. Luke's resources.

- **Eliminate Obstacles that Cause Poverty**

Address obstacles that prevent children and their families from leading healthy lifestyles by collaborating with churches and community organizations in advocacy work including educating about existing resources and being involved in policy implementation and/or change.

- **Strengthen our International Mission Partners**

Equip our six international mission partners to move from relief to development through training and partnership with denominational level support in the United States and in each country.

World Changing Idea: TURN THE CHURCH INSIDE OUT

We will offer multifaceted ways to worship which truly reflects the diversity of Christ's body on earth in order to reach, engage and build an expanded community of disciples as we PROCLAIM God's Word in 21st century ways.

"Worship the Lord with gladness" Psalm 100:2

What does this strategic direction mean for us?

Worship is one of the primary drivers of St. Luke's vision, mission and core values and continues to be the number one place for us to reach the largest amount of people. By "turning the church inside out" we will seek to take our already strong Proclaim mission essential and optimize ways to encourage worship participation outside the boundaries of St. Luke's campus and reach communities underrepresented in the current worshipping congregation.

Therefore we will:

- **Utilize virtual technologies**

Leverage the use of technology to encourage worship participation by building an online campus, thus providing interactive participation and connection at several locations and increasing the ability to offer worship offsite using "real time" or pre-recorded worship services.

- **Cultivate new worshipping opportunities**

Offer new worship opportunities to reach communities underrepresented in our current congregation. Opportunities will organically grow out of relationships born from other strategies (i.e. 18-35 year olds, recovery groups, culturally diverse communities). Worship opportunities will reflect diversity in locations, environments, leadership, music, learning styles and accessibility.

- **Increase regularity of worship attendance**

Continue offering intentionally developed worship, based on proclamation of the Word by sharing core values and vision, and reflecting the diversity of Christ's body, on campus, off site, and through online campus. Regularity of worship attendance will be increased within the worshipping congregation.

World Changing Idea: DIG IN...GROW DEEP

We will offer intentionally coordinated approaches to help people of all ages dig into God's word and develop twelve fundamental traits of discipleship that will GUIDE them to grow deep in their relationship with God, with others and in service to the world.

"Grow in grace and knowledge..." 2 Peter 3:18

What does this strategic direction mean for us?

To be effective in achieving our purpose of "Building the Kingdom" we must "Build Disciples". We believe discipleship is an intentional process guided by the Spirit and starting wherever the individual is on their faith journey. Spiritual growth is the twin engine alongside worship which propels us in the work of building the Kingdom. It is a lifelong endeavor of growing deeper in "head, heart and hand knowledge" of God through Jesus Christ.

Therefore we will:

- **Broaden the scope of the 12 Building Blocks of a Disciple Framework**

Leverage the Building Blocks of a Christian Disciple adult framework to create similar frameworks for children and students including specific spiritual growth opportunities, starting points and particular emphasis on Biblical literacy. Establish a wide variety of teaching, fellowship, mentoring and reflection opportunities to guide disciples in their relationship with God, with others and in service to the world.

- **Expand Innovative Children & Student Ministry**

Explore best practices to offer cutting edge ministries that guide children and students in their relationship with God, with others and in service to the world based on the 12 Building Blocks of a Christian Disciple framework.

- **Build a culture of student and adult growth groups**

Expect a deeper commitment within the congregation to the Biblical and Wesleyan definition of community where disciples grow as they study, fellowship, pray and serve together. Increase opportunities for short term, long term or covenant growth groups for disciples to grow together in their relationship with God, with others and in service to the world.

- **Create 21st Century Learning Environments**

Create environments conducive to small group study, large group learning and online learning opportunities. Repurpose facilities through updates in technology, internet access, inviting and more comfortable atmospheres, and accessibility to larger groups.

World Changing Idea: CONNECT FOR CARE

We will help people feel known and cared for by offering ministries which NURTURE fellowship and community within our congregation, pastoral care and partnership in times of crisis or need, and support for navigating life's circumstances.

"Love one another" 1 John 4:7

What does this strategic direction mean for us?

One of the greatest human desires is to feel a sense of connectedness and belonging. We value St. Luke's as a sacred place where Christ's loves unites our congregation and community to care for others through the nurturing of our relationship with God and an interdependent relationship with one another.

Therefore we will:

- **Build Connection within the Congregation**

Re-shape congregational care beyond care for crisis and support to build connection within our church family. Create a ministry of fellowship, support, growth and witness through onsite activities and through the building of neighborhood networks to ensure the "intimate" connection within a large congregation.

- **Amplify Nurture Ministries to Specifically Targeted Communities**

Focus support offered to specifically underserved communities (elder care, special needs, recovery in particular) within our congregation and our five mile radius to offer a centralized network of support, care, and assistance. Partner with other organizations and faith communities to strengthen strategic connections for these communities.

- **Broaden Ministry of Healing and Care**

Offer specialized training for Stephen's Ministry to address particular issues of healing, support and reconciliation for demographics dealing with specific needs and changing life situations. Utilize Counseling Center to provide training and workshops to help model reconciliation, conflict resolution, peacemaking and community building.

World Changing Idea: MAKE IT HAPPEN

We will SUPPORT the strategic vision by deepening congregational stewardship, developing leaders, training and mobilizing servants and leveraging best practices of facilities and resources to build the Kingdom.

"All things work together for good" Romans 8:28

What does this strategic direction mean for us?

This five year Vision contains strategies which are going to position us in bold and focused ways to accomplish our purpose of "Building the Kingdom by Building Disciples." Whenever new Vision is given life by the Holy Spirit, God's call and challenge to the congregation is increased in terms of their discipleship, stewardship and commitment as they "participate in the church's ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service and their witness." This Vision requires each of us committing in specific ways to "make it happen."

Therefore we will:

- **Resource Realignment**

Realign resources to match up against the administrative and execution requirements of our Ministry Strategies.

- **Upgrade Technology and Utilization of Facilities**

Increase and upgrade technology capabilities campus wide to support each strategy with foundational 21st century needs. Finalize decisions regarding the next phases of building or renovation to ensure facilities are adequate for ongoing ministries.

- **Leadership Development and Training**

Emphasize leadership development and training for staff and laity to help increase the numbers and skills of those involved in leading and serving in each of the strategies. Provide a strategy to mobilize the congregation to commit to their place in this vision.

- **Increase Stewardship and Adopt Long Term Budget Process**

Focused stewardship campaign to increase revenue for church ministry budget and capital budgets. Adopt a new budgeting process to ensure that adequate funding to uphold the six strategies and determined resources are available to accomplish our five year goals.

Next steps for St. Luke's 4D Vision Process

We need your feedback. Just as we asked for your input in the phases of Discovering and Dreaming, we want your feedback on this high level design of our future Vision. We have three key questions to think about and want your feedback on this Vision. Please fill out the next page and take return it to one of the 4D Vision Tables in Building C OR log on to st.lukes.org/spotlight to answer the questions online. Responses should be submitted by Sunday, October 23.

Feedback will be used by the Church Council to determine if any major changes are needed to the document. If we have positive consensus, the next step is approval of the 4D Vision at our annual meeting of the church, the Church Conference on Tuesday, November 8. Church Conference is presided over by our District Superintendent.

There are six design teams looking at each of the objectives in their strategy to determine a timeline, implications and measurable objectives for a January 2012 Sermon Series. This Series will offer the congregation a vision of how we will be "Building the Kingdom by Building Disciples" and what commitments it will take from each of us in the coming year.

Please note that if you have any questions or would like to offer assistance in anyway to these strategies, your Church Council Leadership is available. If you would like for us to sit down and talk with your small group please let us know by contacting the Rev. Jennifer Stiles Williams, Executive Pastor at Jstileswilliams@st.lukes.org or your Church Council chairperson, Mark Adelhelm or Lay Leader, Chuck Mallue. Thank you!

Share Your Feedback About the 4D Vision Statement

1. What ignites your passion within this Vision?

2. How will this Vision inspire individual commitment, change and action?

3. What did you expect or hope to see included that was not there?

4. Please provide any additional thoughts or comments.

Please return to Bldg C by **Sunday, October 23**. Thank you!



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St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

Building the Kingdom by Building Disciples

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