

Sanctuary UCC

2016 Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting

Sunday, September 19, 2016, 10:00 am

Saturday, October 01, 2016, 8:30 am



Call to the 2016 Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting

The Congregational Church of West Medford United Church of Christ dba Sanctuary United Church of Christ

The Officers and Leadership Circle of the Congregational Church of West Medford | Sanctuary UCC issue this call to the Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting as defined by our by-laws as follows:

The Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting shall be held between June and September, the purpose of which is to a) Review and assess the congregation's mission, ministries, objectives and goals; and b) Make adjustments as called for from the dialogue and discernment. (Article IV. Section B)

The plan for the Visioning Meeting and Process will include:

Sunday Worship, September 18 @ Sanctuary (10:00 am to 12 noon)

- (10:00 – 11:00) Findings from recent Evaluations and Assessments
- (11:00 – 12:00) A Time of Discernment guided by the question: Who are We Called to Serve?
 - Vote on Proposal to donate

Saturday Retreat, October 1 @ location to be determined (8:30 light breakfast; 9:00 am – 12 noon)

A Time of Discernment guided by the following questions:

- (09:00 – 10:00) What Has the Experiment Taught Us?
- (10:00 – 11:00) How Do We Worship?
- (11:00 – 12:00) What Ministries Does God and our Neighbors Need from Sanctuary?

The Congregational Visioning Meeting will be called to order on September 19, at the start of worship. The meeting will be tabled at the close of worship that day. The Meeting will be reopened at the start of the retreat on October 1.

Signed by Paul Roberts, Moderator and Bruce Roberts, Vice Moderator on behalf of the Leadership Circle

Sanctuary United Church of Christ

Mission Statement

We are action oriented followers of Jesus, who humbly strive through worship, faith formation and the practice of Jesus' teachings to love God and our neighbors as God loves us.

God calls us to care for and meet people where they are; share a life of prayer and joyful service with all; and together worship, rest in, and serve God. We are seekers of justice and lovers of all of God's creation.

Through the community formed by the Holy Spirit, we are consoled, forgiven, refreshed and inspired. We extravagantly welcome all people; believers, non-believers, doubters, questioners, no matter who they love, their gender identity or expression, their race, culture, ability, or economic circumstance. All are a blessing to our journey of faith and we seek to share God's love and grace with all.

Sanctuary Values and Vision

circa 2014

*Is this still who
we are?*

- Jesus Followers – Love God and Love Neighbor, Go out and make Disciples, Baptize them and Teach Them!
- Progressive: Experiential, Experimental, Heartfelt, Interactive, Invite Questions, Discover your own faith
- Action, Mission and Justice - Open and Affirming, Racial, Economic and more
- Community, Connection, Collaboration - Partnerships
- Multicultural, Multiracial
- Worship needs to be...grounded in our faith and tradition while exploring what is being called forth; old and new spiritual practices
- Serving those who are not yet here (and resistant to church) – including SBNR, None's and Done's

Mission

Sanctuary
Ministry Plan
2016

"Everybody Needs a Little Sanctuary"
Sacred Circles of Service and Love



Mission

Sanctuary Ministry Plan 2016

Love God

- Worship: Sunday, Dinner Church, Wednesday, Other—tbd
- The Prayer Life of the Church

Love Your Neighbor

- Pastoral Care and Circles of Care Ministries
- Open Sanctuary
- Mission/Outreach Ministries
- 10% Tithe
- Special Gifts—ie: Testimony!
- Special Service Projects and Funds Raised outside of the Budget: Outdoor Church, Mission Trip Expenses, Quilt Raffle, One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.)

Go Out and Make Disciples

- Casting the Vision into the Community
- Building Partnerships and Recruiting Leaders
- Evangelism, Inviting, Sharing
- Advertising/Marketing
- Social Networking

"Baptize" Them

- Fellowship & Hospitality—Open Sanctuary, Dinner Church, Hospitality Tent
- Developing Community
- Creating Communion

Teach Them the Things Jesus Taught Us

- Faith Formation (Worship, Adult Studies, Arts and Inspiration, FormingFaith.net)
- Lay Leadership Development

Mission

Sanctuary Ministry Plan 2016

**Creating vibrant and sacred circles
of worship, service, outreach, community building and faith formation.**



How do we measure success?

- People are participating and glad for it
- People are experiencing faith formation and self-discovery through it
- People are showing up to plan it, volunteer at it, serve it
- There is a sense of Call to the Ministry
- It serves our vision and purpose
- There are partnerships connected to it
- Our Pastors are energized by it – and it is carrying the message of Sanctuary

What Seems to Be Working?

- ARTChurch (19-20)
 - Art Reception (24-25)
 - Dinner Church (17 – 20) with 28 in August!
 - Faith and Film (20)
 - Yoga (7 – 12)
 - Pastoral Leadership in Organizations
 - Medford Interfaith Clergy
 - Medford Conversations
 - Medford Health Maters
 - Black Student Union
 - MHS – Interact Club/World Café
 - Tufts Connections
 - One Time Faith Formation/Educational
 - Conversation on Race (20)
 - President and People (12)
 - Bridging the Political Divide (expecting successful gathering)
- ### Circles of Care
- AM.2.PM (13 youth/20 Adults)
 - Bread of Life (7)
 - Outdoor Church Sandwiches (4-6)
 - Pine Ridge Volunteer Trips (20)
 - Lakota YouthStay (8 Advisors, hundreds invited)
 - Medford Overcoming Addiction – Relationship
 - Ashes to Go (50)
 - Palms for Passersby (100+)
 - Hospitality/Presence at Community Events
 - Circle The Square (50 each month)
 - MOA Kickball Tournament (200+)
 - Mystic River Celebration (200+)
 - Medford Day (200+)
 - Halloween Block Party (1000)
 - Pastoral Leadership at Community Events
 - Orlando Vigil (200+)
 - Charleston Vigil (200+)
 - Mayors Inauguration (200+)
 - Patriots Day (200+)
 - Blessing of the Animals (tbd)
 - Tufts – Candlelight Orientation

What needs further discernment, assessment, consideration, development?

- Sunday Worship (11)
- Ministry with Families/Children/Youth
- Music for the Soul (<20 Average, Youth event 40, Butterfly Music ~ 100)
- Faith Formation Offerings
 - Wed. Lenten Darkwood Brew (7)
 - Wed. Love Wins (0)
 - Other Study Groups ?
- Circles of Care
 - Called-to-Care Ministry and other volunteerism
 - FormingFaith.net

What did the Consultants Recommend?

- Optimize Administrative Processes
 - Focus and Pare Down
 - Redesign and Clarify roles/responsibilities
 - Improve Staff Communication for Maximum flexibility
- Built Capacity of and through Membership
 - Grow, Serve, and Engage Constituency
 - Leadership Development
- Right Size the Mission
 - Concern for Burnout
 - Scale Back – reduce outreach efforts and social media footprint
 - Focus on ministries that the current membership wants and is willing to support
 - Don't do it unless you have volunteers to staff it
- Sustainability
 - Financial – Stewardship Growth, More Reporting to Members, Ask for Donations everywhere and always
 - People – define goals, track participation, develop follow-up by lay leaders; focus on spiritual health of the participants/members

Assessing our Vision ~~~ for the 2017 Ministry Plan

A Framework for Discernment

- Is it consistent with our values and vision?
- Is it a “Successful” Ministry?
- Do people want it, do people participate?
- Is faith formed/transformed?
- Are there people who are called and show up to support it
- Is it supporting the sustainability of Sanctuary
 - Do we have energy, people, staff for it?
 - Is it financially sustainable?

The Questions
we will
consider...

...which will
inform our
2017
Ministry Plan

Today:

- Who are we Called to Serve? Who is our Neighbor?

October 1:

- What have we learned from the experiment?
- How are we Called to Worship?
- What Ministries Does God and our Neighbor Need from Sanctuary?



sanctuary
united church of christ

Everybody needs a little sanctuary!

Who is our Neighbor?

Whom has God Called
Sanctuary to Serve?