

ATTACHMENT I

Our Shared Values

1. Unity in Essentials, Diversity in non-essentials, Charity in all things
2. Transparency and Healthy Communication
3. UCC – Centered in the people, congregational polity, non-creedal, leadership is decentralized
4. Our Theology is Progressive; and that means:
 - God is Still Speaking
 - We are engaged in the “Emerging/Converging” conversation
 - Is a theology that invites questions
 - Experiential and Experimental
 - Includes diverse and wide ranging spiritual practices; including practices from other faith walks and traditions
 - The Pastor is coach and teacher and empowers others to use their gifts to achieve our mission
 - You can discover your faith here
 - Worship and Relationships are heartfelt
 - Worship and Ministry are Interactive
 - Everybody is welcome at the table
 - We do not: Judge, Exclude, Consider scripture to be inerrant or the absolute truth, Tell you what to believe
 - As congregationalists we are not: Hierarchical, “Evangelical” with an uppercase E, focused on Doctrine
5. Open and Affirming
6. Jesus Followers – we Love God, love neighbor as yourself
7. Action, Mission and Justice Oriented (Local AND Non Local (Pine Ridge))
 - Environmental, economic, racial, gender, sexual, educational justice matter
8. Committed to Community, Connection and Collaboration
 - Sharing the load
 - It takes a village
 - Seeking and Building Partnerships across the City and the World
9. Micah 8: Seek Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God
10. Multicultural, Multiracial
11. Worship needs to be about:
 - Sacred – Experience God/The Holy
 - Considers the mystical, mystery and beauty of God
 - Include Threshold moments that move us from our lives to experience of the Holy
 - Forgiveness-Reconciliation
 - Beloved-ness
 - Everybody included, everybody involved
 - Moves us from head to heart (18”)
 - Music opens the soul to God, includes multiple genres and is easy to sing
 - Reflects our context - neighbors
 - Joyful
 - Includes Story and Witness
 - Includes Confession
 - Includes Communion
 - Is Challenging and Intelligent

ATTACHMENT II

A Vision for the Future

- a. We are and will be a progressive, Christian community that experiences the sacred in everyday, ordinary moments;
- b. We will build loving relationships with God and each other;
- c. We will discover old and new spiritual practices that leave us refreshed and inspired.
- d. We are a rag tag, wildly diverse group of questioners and believers (and everything in between); who are forming faith at home and together through
 - a. worship,
 - b. ritual,
 - c. prayer,
 - d. practice,
 - e. service, and
 - f. study.
- e. We will make a difference in the lives of people who would not ordinarily come to “Church” but who will find “church” in us.
- f. We will create threshold moments where the stuff of our regular lives becomes the stuff of holiness and grace.
- g. We will experience joyous, heartfelt, intelligent and participatory worship that challenges and amazes and puts us in touch with God.
- h. We will be a community that is called to care—everyone.
- i. We will be place where there are no barriers to entry and where the table of hospitality is set with love and forgiveness and grace and you can’t help but want to sit down and be fed.
- j. We will sometimes offer classic forms of worship where we will go to a sanctuary somewhere and have an order of worship and pray the way we love to pray and sing hymns and hear “The Word.”
- k. And we will create new ways of praising God—through new forms of worship, grounded in old liturgy and our story, with music and singing and expressions that are organic to who we are; and other new forms like online practices, drop in meditation, experiences of faith through Art and Nature and Literature; and spiritual study groups that do not look like church as we know it, but that bring us in touch with our Creator.
- l. We will move out of our big, beautiful building and building bold, beautiful big-ness on the move.
- m. We will have a welcoming ministry center in the public square that offers hospitality seven days a week--where people can drop in to laugh and cry and find a faith that works for them.
- n. We will act in many ways that expresses what we stand for—we will be “those Christians” that advocate for justice and make a difference in the lives of people in need, that feed the hungry and clothe the naked and take seriously Jesus’ call to love our neighbor.
- o. We will be a people so blessed, so transformed by our experience of being a part of this vision – that we cannot help but invite others to join us on the journey! And people will want to join us because they want what we have and want to be like us