

Sanctuary Vision Meeting

Part 2: 10/25/2020 2-4 pm

Agenda

- A Look Back - 10 mins
- Current Ministry Model - 5 mins
- Report on Current Ministries - 15 mins
- Sharing and Discussion - 40 mins
- Prayer Process - 5 mins
- Go and Pray - 45 mins

A Look Back- 2014 Model for Ministry

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.

[2014.05.14-Model-for-Ministry.Church-Council-Recommendation-to-Congregation](#)

2014 Shared Values and Vision

Shared Values (there are 11 summarized here)

#1+2. Unity in essentials, diversity in non-essentials, charity in all things. Transparency and healthy communication.

#3-6. Centered in the people, congregational polity, non-creedal, leadership is decentralized. Our Theology is Progressive. We are open and affirming. We are Jesus Followers.

#7-9. Action, Mission and Justice Oriented. Community, connection and COllaboration. Micah 8: Seek justice, love kindness walk humbly with God

[2014.05.14-Model-for-Ministry.Church-Council-Recommendation-to-Congregation](#)

A Vision for the Future (highlights of the 15)

d. We are a rag tag, wildly diverse group of questioners and believers (and between); who are forming faith at home and together through worship, ritual, prayer, practice, service, and 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.

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.

2014 A Bold, New Model for Ministry, Mission and Worship

Our Identity—we will change our name, the way we operate and the ways we engage the larger community in our ministries; we will remain a progressive, Open and Affirming, UCC faith community

Our Location—we will move the church operation from 400 High Street and establish a hospitality, ministry and operations center in the public square at 458 High Street, West Medford

Our Ministries—we will develop new forms of mission and ministries that reach into the city and the world and meet people where they are, including on the internet, in their homes, and in their need

Our Worship—we will create new forms of worship that reflect our vision and meet our neighbors in the community. This will include both classic and non-traditional forms of worship with music which reflects our community

Our Partners—we will develop partnerships in youth/faith formation/mission ministries with North Prospect Union, UCC and others in the community;

Our Income—we will develop new sources of income and seek to make stewardship a foundational spiritual practice.

2015 Ministry Plan

2015 Model Had the Following

- Lead Pastor
- 2 Pastors (part time)
- Administrator
- Outline for a Community Organizer



Love God

- Worship: Sunday Worship, Dinner Church, Other Worship Experiences
- The Prayer Life of the Church

Love Your Neighbor

- Pastoral Care and Called to Care Ministries
- Mission/Outreach Ministries
- 10% Tithe
- Special Gifts—ie: ReMember Capital Campaign
- Bright Stars Ministry
- Special Service Projects and Funds Raised outside of the Budget: Heifer, Outdoor Church, Special Fund Raisers (ie: 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
- Developing Community
- Creating Communion

Teach Them the Things Jesus Taught Us

- Adult, Youth, Kids Faith Formation (FormingFaith.Net, Messy Church/CE, Adult Education)
- Leadership Development

Sanctuary's Call

Spiritual Sanctuary, Spiritual Transformation

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The heart of Sanctuary lies deep within us.

Ongoing spiritual growth goes deep and circles inward and outward.

Spiritual growth begins with Deep Questions—of God, self, others, the world.

It moves naturally to Deep Conversations—with God, self, others, the world.

From there growth moves to Deep Connections—to God, self, others, the world.

Then arise Deep Convictions—about God, self, others, the world.

Finally come Deep Commitments—to God, self, others, the world.

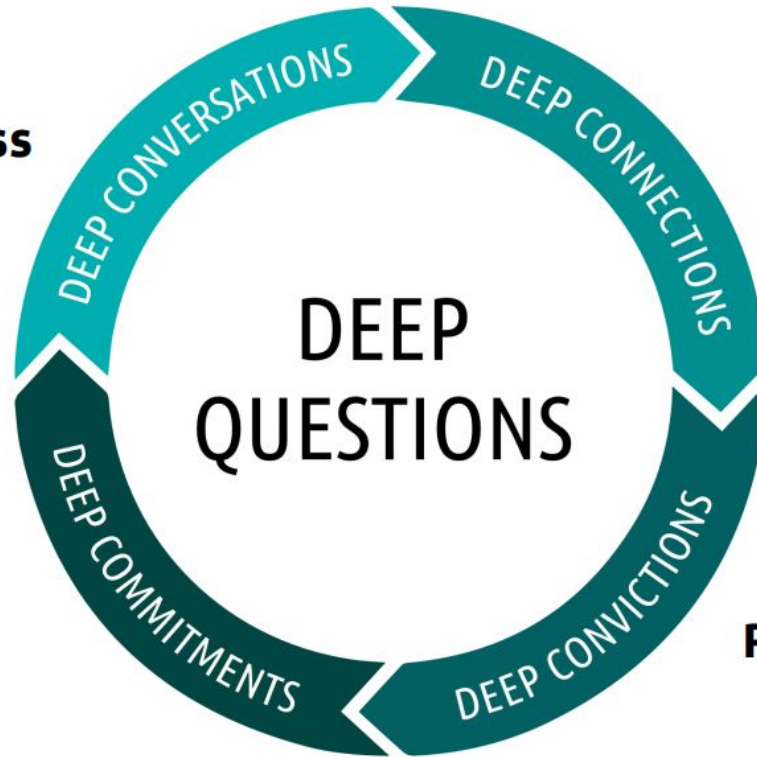
The circle goes ever onward:

Deep Questions begin anew, ad infinitum.



### Purpose: Spiritual Transformation

**Process**



**Practice**



**Our Purpose: Spiritual Transformation**

**Our Process: Asking Deep Questions, Having Deep Conversations,  
Making Deep Connections, Discovering Deep Convictions, Developing Deep Commitment**

**Our Practice: Asking Deep Questions and...**

|                           |                         |                             |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Having Deep Conversations | Making Deep Connections | Developing Deep Convictions | Sharing Deep Commitment |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|

**The Ministries:**

|                          |                                    |                                  |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Love God, Self & Worship | Spiritual Growth, Study & Practice | Making God's Love & Justice Real | Generosity & Invitation |
| aka: Love                | aka: Grow                          | aka: Care                        | aka: Give               |

**The Options:**

|                |                                    |                         |                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday Circle  | Small Groups & Spiritual Practice  | Service to Others       | Hospitality & Evangelism |
| Prayer Circles | Arts & Inspiration Experiences     | Interfaith Partnerships | Marketing & Media        |
| Messy Church   | Lay & Youth Leadership Development | Community Partnerships  | Stewardship & Giving     |

# Current Ministries at Sanctuary UCC

## Worship and Prayer

- Weekly Joint Sunday Meditation
- Weekly Joint Sunday Worship
- Monthly Messy Church (pandemic/in joint worship)
- Weekday Meditation

## Communication and Engagement Plan

- Weekly One Minute Word and other social media engagement
- Weekly Worship and Word News
- Weekly Mission and Ministry News

- The ministers of Sanctuary and Hillside churches have been in collaboration since last spring, facilitating a well structured and technologically engaging worship event shared by the two congregations for the past seven months.
- Messy Church, which met monthly pre-pandemic, has become a weekly children's celebration in our socially distanced Zoom worship.
- Weekly meditations have continued uninterrupted for a total of 86 Sunday and Tuesday gatherings.

## **Arts Ministry**

- ARTChurch built into Worship Series
- Faith and Film: Black History and Culture Series; renew regular film series this fall

## **Adult Formation**

- Sermon Series Themed Bible Self-Study
- Book Group
- Antiracist Study Groups
- ART Receptions (pandemic)

- Another Sanctuary Church core value, represented in our monthly Art Church program, has continued with brief interruption during the spring, with ten modified reception/worship events since July 2019.
- Faith and Film events have continued, with appropriate modifications for social distancing, including 10 movies presenting various subjects to challenge our growth in faith, as well as 5 films focusing on the theme of racial justice.
- Six books have been the subject of multiple book club gatherings during this
- Six books have been the subject of multiple book club gatherings during this period, both in person and online, with the dominant theme being anti-racism.
- Discernment Team has brought a new prayer practice to the congregation.

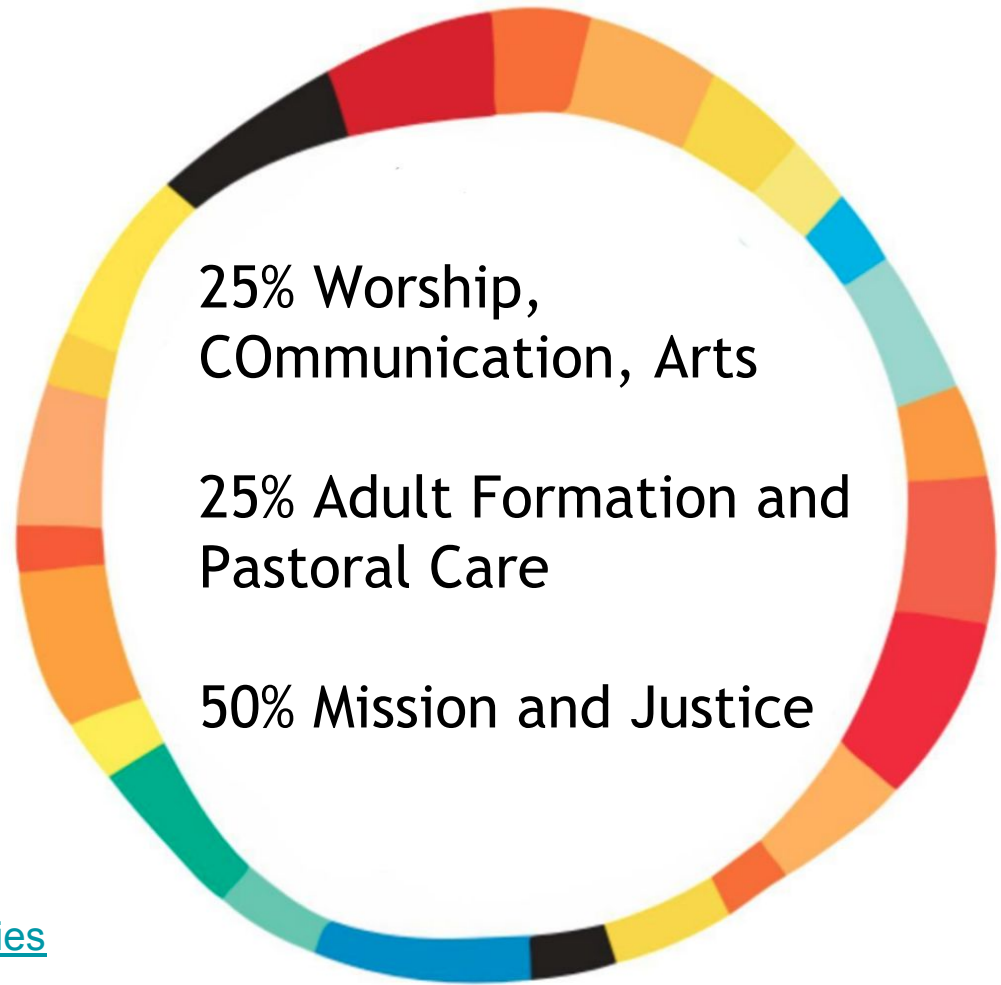
## **Mission and Justice**

- 40,000 plus Meals Packed and Distributed - Outreach
- (14) Micro-pantries in Medford
- Fresh Vegetable Distribution @ Sanctuary
- Bread of Life
- Fiduciary, Leadership and Mentoring for Safe Medford, Medford Overcoming Addiction. Mobilize Medford
- The micro-pantry mission group met with 15 non-Sanctuary community members early this year to outline its plan on behalf of the congregation; from the two micro-pantries cupboard established almost two years ago at Hillside and behind our High St location the network has developed into fourteen identical cupboards strategically located in places of need throughout the city; with the support of hundreds of community members and other organizations
- Responding to the urgent need for supplemental food experienced by so many people in our community; the church raised funds for, packed, and distributed over 40,000 servings of food; and began a collaborative mission with a local organic farmer to offer fresh produce to our neighbors near and far; operating directly out of our main address sixteen vegetable distributions have been made from June through October.

## **Community Organizing, Social Justice/Moral Leadership via pastor**

- Trustee – Melville Trust which distributes funds to those in need
  - Advisor - Mobilize Medford, Rallies, Policing and Education
  - President - Medford Health Matters – currently working on supporting the city of medford in Becoming an Antiracist City via the Big Table process
  - President – Medford Interfaith Clergy Association; responding to community and world crises; working toward interfaith dialogue
  - Founding Member and Planning Team - #ItTakeAVillageMedford – Equitable Response to Remote Learning
  - Ongoing - Food Security Task Force, Safe Medford, Housing Task Force, Medford Connects
- The church’s commitment to spread Jesus’ message of love, equity, and justice across our city and beyond the walls of the church; meeting people where they are - has expanded in the past 18 months through the pastor’s continued leadership and community organizing efforts in many Medford community-wide initiatives – some of which are sponsored by Sanctuary as a non-profit. These include but are not limited to: Mobilize Medford, Safe Medford, Medford Overcoming Addiction, the Melville Trust, ItTakesAVillageMedford, and Medford Health Matters.

Rev. Wendy  
Lead Pastor



[2020 List of Sanctuary Ministries](#)

[Narrative Report Mission and Ministries](#)

# Time for Sharing and Discussion

Talk - 1 minute

Or

[Virtual Sticky Notes](#)

From what I've heard and shared, what do I believe God wants our church to do or be?



## CURRENT PROPOSAL - APPROVED BY LC IN AUGUST

- Fall 2020 - Use 2020 Annual Visioning Meeting to Begin Discernment about the success of the experiment and the future of Sanctuary
  - 09/27 - 10/24: Phase 1, Part 1: Looking Up to God
  - 10/25 - 11/29: Phase 1, Part 2: Looking Out to Community
- Dec. 06: 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting to Extend Budget, Ministry, and Leadership “as Is” through Fiscal Year (*date tentative*)
- Winter/Spring, Discernment Continues into Annual Visioning 2021
  - *Models for these phases to be determined, but prayer continues*
  - Phase 3: Looking Inward - God’s Vision for Sanctuary
  - Phase 4: Next Steps - Carrying Out God’s Vision/Developing Sanctuary Mission and Ministry in response to discernment and the new context
- June, 2021: Annual Congregational Meeting (Ministry Plan, Budget, Leadership)

# Prayer Circles

- [Outline of Prayer Practice](#)
- [Today's Psalm](#)
- Three Established Groups lead by Discernment Team Members
  - Sunday @ 6 pm
  - Tuesday @ 4 pm
  - Thursday @ 7:30pm
- If you haven't done so already we would love for you to join a prayer circle that will run until 12/6/2020 (annual meeting). An email will go out with new form.
- Feedback Gathered [here](#).

As you reflect on this report and in the spirit of our small group prayer practice, consider the question:

From what I've heard and shared, what do I believe God wants our church to do or be?