

2022.2023 Mission and Ministry Plan

Mission: Discernment in a Liminal Time - short term (2022/2023) we recommend continued discernment with renewed investment, commitment, and passion for “Being Uniquely Sanctuary”

- **Every one is invested** with time, talent, and treasure
- **Every one is prioritizing partnerships over programs** (smart growth) to:
 - actively build mission and ministry partners/relationships across community, denomination, etc.
 - strengthen and add to Sanctuary networks to increase:
 - collaboration and new ideas for spreading love
 - program participation
 - use of the space at 458 High Street
 - membership/leadership
 - stewardship/sustainability
- **Every one is called, accountable, and a leader** - implement Committee of the Whole to do the work of the Leadership Circle
- **Every one is an inspiration and encouraging** each other (body, mind, emotions, spirit) to
 - move from fear of the future to being Sanctuary/being present to community now
 - make three spiritual shifts to manage discomfort of liminal time allow discernment (S. Beaumont):
 - from knowing to unknowing
 - from striving to surrender
 - from advocating to attending
- **Every one is actively participating and in the “space”** - literally, digitally, and figuratively
 - Worship/Sunday School
 - Arts & Inspiration
 - Circles/Formation
 - Love/Service
 - Invitation/Outreach
- **Every one is inviting** - tell others, bring a friend, social media

Ministry: What does God Need from us? What are we called to be and do as a church?

- **Maintain Ministry Partnership with Hillside** (25% of our commitment)
 - Worship and Music
 - Study Groups-Formation
 - OWL (5/6 and 8/9 classes being planned)
 - Sunday School/Messy Church
 - Outreach and Community Service
 - Micropantry
 - Bread of Life
 - Outdoor Church
 - Communication - Website, Newspaper,
- **Build-up Sanctuary’s Unique Ministry** (75% of our commitment)
 - **Arts and Inspiration**
 - New partnerships to grow participation (Tufts, CACHE, WMOS, Writers Groups, WMCC...)
 - Pop-Up Open Studios
 - Themes and Seasons - art, film, spoken word, music
 - Hands on ‘art’ experiences, maker space, workshops, Guerilla Art (in the street)
 - **Circle Spirituality** - Deep Questions/Deep Conversations/Community Connection

- Support groups - providing sanctuary
 - Open space - no agenda - come and talk
 - Reflecting on arts
 - Pub Theology
- **Sanctuary Space** - 458 High Street
 - Community partnerships - providing access to meeting and virtual spaces
 - Those who lost their space due to pandemic or have no space
 - Pop-up partnerships/events
 - Neighborhood partnerships (snappy, deep cuts, medford brewing)
- **Making Love and Justice Real**
 - Partnership across City for Community Service/Compassion
 - Interfaith and Civic Leadership; City Chaplain
 - Wider Church Leadership
- **Who is our neighbor?** We need to understand this better this year. Questions to consider:
 - Mission Insite - Who is around us, what do they need, where does that align with what we have and do?
 - What is the a difference in who and how we serve
 - onsite/online
 - Hillside neighbors (single millennials)/Sanctuary neighbors (empty nest and boomers)
 - those already here/those who needs sanctuary/spiritual seekers
 - What is the impact of trying to be multiple things to multiple generations and seekers
 - classic church/emerging church
 - onsite/online
 - wide range of programs/need for niche message
 - can we choose?
 - How do we do laser focused web, news, social media, and programming that says what Sanctuary is and does
 - Post Pandemic - Post Modern - Post Christian
 - Working with SNEUCC and others - what is needed in this moment from faith community
 - What are the barriers to being a faith community today? What are the assets?
 - What are the barriers to being Sanctuary (space, intimacy, Christian, confusing as to what we are, lack of consistency of presence)? What are the assets?
 - What can we learn from secular marketing and media fields to help us penetrate the barriers?
- **Goals/Sustainability - People, Money, Resources, Leadership**
 - How do we spend, staff, and steward for our short and long term objectives?
 - How do we define 'success' for a model of church as we have become?
 - How do we express goals and objectives based on our mission and ministry model?

Beyond 2022/2023 - The Future of Sanctuary?

- Does our vision and mission (and statement) inspire/define how we apply our unique gifts and talents and calling; our values and purpose - in our context (the mission for Sanctuary in Medford)?
- What thoughts do you have about the future and Being Sanctuary?
- Ideas from the United Church Building Fund - using your assets to serve your mission
 - Build multiple streams of income tied to church's mission (even if the 'coffee house' is making money if it advances mission it isn't taxable; or if the income is taxable - you still made revenue and it does not risk the tax exempt standing)
 - Develop a sustainable, business model that support our mission - is there a way to use/invest our financial resources to serve mission and make income to keep the church sustainable?

- Consider Matthew 25: Five Fold Mission (Food, drink, hospitality/welcome strangers, clothe, prison/'returning citizens')
- Spaces and Places tht Seekers/Followers need to live out the mission and values of the church. Innovate. Fail Often. Try: new uses, mixed uses, partnerships, strange bedfellows