

Whatcoat United Methodist Church – Visioning Task Force Charter

Approved by Administrative Board December 1, 2015

The Administrative Board of Whatcoat United Methodist Church charters a Visioning Task Force (VTF) to **discern and articulate a statement of our Core Values, Vision and Mission of Whatcoat UMC**, specifically outlining a **plan of ministry focus for the next one to three years (2017-19)**, and to present their report to the Administrative Board on or before June 1, 2016. This charter states the rationale and process of the work of the Visioning Task Force, as well as the minimum composition of the membership.

Rationale

After an eight year period of healing and restoration under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Dr. Bob Rowe, **Whatcoat UMC is poised to articulate a more intentional plan of ministry to launch a new season of health and growth in mission and ministry to our neighbors in Christ's name.** Our present general statement of mission does not address our current spiritual growth and ministry context. A discernment process that takes into account the factors that affect the spiritual health and growth of our congregation will **enable us to more faithfully use the gifts God has provided to us to love our neighbors and glorify God.**

Process

This group will **meet at least monthly** in plenary and task smaller groups as necessary to gather information about Whatcoat's present condition of spiritual gifts and vitality and the demographics and spiritual/physical needs of our surrounding community. They will use **Aubrey Malphurs' *Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model for Church and Ministry Leaders* (2nd edition –2005, Baker Books)** as a guide. After collecting information about Whatcoat's present state (including our core values) and our context of ministry, the group will prayerfully discern a Vision (long-term statement of purpose) and Mission (path toward our Vision) that will focus our collective ministry efforts in 2017-19 to bear witness to the love of God in our community.

Throughout the process, **the VTF will intentionally communicate their progress and findings to the congregation** (through worship, Administrative Board meetings, "town hall" gatherings, word of mouth and all regular church communication channels).

Composition

The group will include but not be limited to the following persons: **Administrative Board Chair, Lay Leader, Pastor, other staff and key leaders (official and unofficial), as well as persons representative of a diversity in gender, membership longevity, age, and church experience.** The Administrative Board Chair and Pastor will serve as co-leaders of the group, and will **invite specific persons by letter and extend an open invitation to any member or friend of the congregation.** All members of the team will gather for an initial meeting as soon after the new year as possible to outline expectations and create a team covenant.