

## Whatcoat United Methodist Church Visioning Task Force

### **Whatcoat United Methodist Church Mission Statement:**

Welcoming all to passionately pursue Jesus and share God's love with others.

### **Vision Statement**

Christ transforms every member from the inside out, empowering us to identify our spiritual gifts and to fulfill our life mission. We live life together, studying the Bible, mentoring one another, and serving the community.

- We partner with **children and their families** in the Scouts and Preschool, welcoming them in worship and inviting them to connect with our church and serve the community.
- Our **young people and elders** partner with each other, sharing wisdom, encouragement, and inspiration.
- We partner with **recovery groups** to make more personal connections and to link the "higher power" with a life-changing relationship with Jesus.
- We partner with other **churches and community leaders** so that Christ can use each of our strengths for the good of the whole community.

We are a family that realizes everyone is our neighbor, particularly "the least of these" – anyone who is in need of food, clothing, shelter, a sense of belonging, and the love of Jesus.

### **Why and who we are: the Body of Christ**

*There is one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* Ephesians 4:4a, 5-6

1. **Anointed** – Ephesians 4:11 *Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people...* (Vow: Prayers; Discipline: Prayer; Support: Staff Parish Relations Team and Nominations & Lay Leadership)
2. **Serve** – Ephesians 4:12 *...for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...* (Vow: Witness; Discipline: Love; Support: Missions & Evangelism; UM Men; Whatcoat Women for Christ; and Simpson Center Board)
3. **Welcome**– Ephesians 4:13a *...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God...* (Vow: Presence; Discipline: Hospitality; Support: Trustees; Family Life)
4. **Relate** – Ephesians 4:13b, 14a *and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching...* (Vow: Presence; Discipline: Worship; Support: Worship & Sacraments, Praise & Preaching)
5. **Accept** – Ephesians 4:15 *speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.* (Vow: Service - see Romans 12:1-2; Discipline: Repentance; Support: Spiritual Formation; Small Groups)
6. **Grow** –Ephesians 4:16 *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.* (Vow: Gifts; Discipline: Stewardship; Support: Finance)

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| <b>Marks of the Church</b>             | <b>Scripture Foundation</b>  | <b>Membership Vow</b>          | <b>Spiritual Discipline</b> | <b>Church Support</b>  |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Anointed by God</b><br>in order to: | <i>Christ gave gifts to equip his people<br/>Ephesians 4:11</i>  | Prayers                        | Prayer                      | Staff-Parish Relations Team<br>Nominations & Lay Leadership              |
| <b>Serve</b>                           | <i>For works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up<br/>Ephesians 4:12</i>  | Witness                        | Love                        | Missions & Evangelism; UM Men; Whatcoat Women for Christ; Simpson Center |
| <b>Welcome</b>                         | <i>Until we all reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God<br/>Ephesians 4:13a</i>   | Presence                       | Hospitality                 | Trustees;<br>Family Life   |
| <b>Relate</b>                          | <i>attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ...no longer... blown here and there by every wind of teaching.<br/>Ephesians 4:13b,14a</i> |                                | Worship                     | Worship & Sacraments;<br>Praise & Preaching                              |
| <b>Accept</b>                          | <i>speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ.<br/>Ephesians 4:15</i>                             | Service<br>(see Romans 12:1-2) | Repentance                  | Spiritual Formation and Small Groups<br>(children, youth & adults)       |
| <b>Grow</b>                            | <i>From him the whole body ... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.<br/>Ephesians 4:16</i>                                    | Gifts                          | Stewardship                 | Finance  |

For more information about our process and progress, please go online to:

[gordy-stith.com/vtf](http://gordy-stith.com/vtf)