

Whatcoat UMC Visioning Task Force gathering on Feb. 14, 2016

21 Members present

Drew Boyce  
Tom Cahall  
Margaret Cahall  
Doyle Tiller  
Dee Waud  
Kris Knarr  
Jane Maroon  
Charlotte Fraser

Bob Contino  
Ann Spence  
Sondra Satterfield  
Tim Stark  
Pat Dyer  
Bonnie Dyer  
Jane Griesa  
Julie Lewicki

Don Fry  
Becky Caswell-Wade  
Mimi Conner  
Fred Truitt  
Bo Gordy-Stith

Agenda:

1. Clarification of conversation re: SBNR (Spiritual but Not Religious) climate and how we are called to respond faithfully to the distinctions we understand between spiritual and religious.
2. Mission discernment
3. Housekeeping, announcements

Handout – Core Values Review/Mission Statement Draft/Core Values-Spiritual Disciplines Links (see below)

We opened with prayer from John’s Vision of Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:9-18.

We had some initial conversation about Religion vs. Relationship. Discussed restoring spiritual and relational vitality to some (if not all) religious practices that can help shape and guide our spiritual life. SNBR might be our context, but our role is to renew a spiritually vital religious practice as followers of Christ, in the spirit of Matthew 13:52 (treasures old and new).

Bob Contino suggested we begin our Mission conversation by reviewing our previous (2003?) Mission Statement: **Changing lives through Jesus Christ one heart at a time.**

Our previous Vision statement (2007/8) was: Making Camden a more Christ-centered community – to which we added the phrase “with open doors, hearts, and minds.”

Fred Truitt asked about the Mission Statement of the UMC. No one knew it by heart.

According to the Book of Discipline, paragraph 121, “the mission of the [UMC] is to **make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**”

According to the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference website, the Mission of our Annual Conference is **Cultivating Communities through our CALL: Connecting, Acting, Leading and Loving.**

Our conversation about our present Mission statement centered around the following concepts:

1. The primary location of our relationships with others (whether in or beyond the doors and walls of our sanctuary).
2. Who is responsible for the change that happens in our or others' lives, and how that change happens. We talked about the progression of change in Christ: how we become changed in order to become change agents in our wider community.
3. We're becoming (we could never say that we have fully become) disciples of Jesus Christ in order to inspire and to invite others to be disciples of Christ. (The group was clear that any mission we might articulate must be founded on Jesus Christ.)
4. When we considered how our identified core values connect with our mission, one member articulated the following statement: To welcome, nurture, and love ourselves and others into a growing relationship into life in Christ.
5. We wrote down the previous Mission statement on a white board and the revision conversation centered around the verb "Changing"
  - a. Building – Christ-like lives
  - b. Enriching
  - c. Perfecting (Sanctifying/making holy)
  - d. Encouraging
  - e. And for the phrase "one heart at a time" we suggested a new focus on being in relationship, or "growing relationships"
6. Drew Boyce offered the following statements:
  - a. Changed lives, providing hope
  - b. Welcoming all to passionately pursue Jesus and share his love with others
  - c. Inviting others to a life-changing relationship with Jesus
7. We paused to reflect that our conversation was centering on three primary themes:
  - a. Welcome and acceptance
  - b. Growth and change
  - c. Sharing
8. The group affirmed the second Mission statement Drew suggested above as one that could serve as our Mission Statement: **Welcoming all to passionately pursue Jesus and share his love with others.**

**We agreed on the following action items in preparation for our Feb. 28, 2016 meeting:**

1. Prayerfully consider this as our Mission Statement and to decide together at our next meeting, on Feb. 28.
2. Read Chapter 5 of the Malphurs book, "Developing a Compelling Vision: The Kind of Church We Envision." This would include reviewing the example Vision statements in Appendix F.
3. Prayerfully write the vision God is giving to each of us and sharing this vision with the group (email your vision statement to Pastor Bo: [pastor@whatcoat.com](mailto:pastor@whatcoat.com) by Sunday, February 21, and he will email the group on Monday, February 22.
4. Prepare to host a table at our March 6 Town Meeting, immediately after the 10 am combined worship service in the Whatcoat Fellowship Hall, where we will listen to the responses and questions our members and friends have about the core values, mission and Vision statements we have discerned.

We closed with prayer.

### Whatcoat UMC Core Values

1. **Accepting** – **Romans 15:7** *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*
2. **Growing** – **2 Thessalonians 1:3** *We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.*
3. **Relational** – **Philippians 2:5** *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus....*
4. **Welcoming** – **Mark 9:37** *Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.*
5. **Spiritual** – **1 Peter 2:5** *...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
6. **\*Serving** – **Mark 9:35** *Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last and the servant of all.*

### Whatcoat UMC Mission

We believe God calls the saints gathered as Whatcoat United Methodist Church:

To **accept** all people into a **growing relationship** that **welcomes** us all into new life in Christ, anointed by the **Spirit** to love and **serve** God and our neighbor.

#### **Mission Link to spiritual disciplines (see below and next page):**

We repent by offering our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in unceasing prayer, experiencing the healing hospitality of Christ, nourished on God's living and active Word to go, love and serve God and our neighbor in everything we do and in all that we are.

#### **Ministry Structure Match (How does our organization match our core values?):**

Accept (Repentance).....	Education, Youth, Bible Study
Grow (Stewardship).....	Finance/Stewardship
Relate (Prayer).....	Worship
Welcome (Hospitality).....	Trustees
Anoint (Meditation).....	Leadership (SPRT/Lay Leadership)
Serve (Love-in-Action).....	Missions, Whatcoat Women/UMM

## Whatcoat 2016 Lenten Spiritual Disciplines/Core Values

1. Feb. 14 – **Give and Tell (God’s Story Well)** – Deuteronomy 26:8-10 So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.” Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him.  
*Life in Christ – an offering of grateful praise (Stewardship – Core Value: Growing)*
2. Feb. 21 – **We Live as the Promise of God** – Genesis 15:5-6 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars —if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.  
*Life in Christ – awestruck wonderers (Prayer – Core Value: Relationship)*
3. Feb. 28 – **With Christ Our Way, We Cannot Fail** – 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.  
*Life in Christ – standing on the promises (Scripture – Core Value: Spiritual)*
4. Mar. 6 – **Let’s Eat! God Rolls Away Our Reproach** – Joshua 5:12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.  
*Life in Christ – sowing for God’s harvest (Serving = Core Value)*
5. Mar. 13 – **Christ: Our Way Out of No Way** – Isaiah 43:19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.  
*Life in Christ – growing in the wilderness (Repentance – Core Value: Accepting)*
6. Mar. 20 – **Tears Among the Tickertape** – Luke 19:41-42 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.  
*Life in Christ – passion for the people (Hospitality – Core Value: Welcoming)*

## Malphurs Notes on Vision

Mission: What are we supposed to be doing and why does it matter? (p. 107, ff.)

- serves to bring into focus the church's ministry future
- provides a guideline for making decisions
- inspires unity since we will all be moving in a common direction
- shapes the strategy (mission tells what and strategy tells how)
- provides a means of evaluation

Vision provides a picture of what it will look like. [Or, what we are hoping for, since we may not be able to be specific enough to provide a picture.] (p. 129, ff.)

- provides energy and inspiration for ministry
- creates cause and purpose
- fosters risk-taking as part of an adventure where we experiment
- legitimizes and energizes leadership
- sustains ministry through discouragement, pain, and disappointment
- motivates giving

Mission is used for planning where the church is going and vision is used to communicate or describe where the church is going. (p. 132)

Mission involves knowing and vision involves seeing.

Mission comes from the head while vision arises from the heart.

People fear the future. (p. 134) A vision gives them reassurance by inviting them into the journey. Full of potential and dreams, visions serve as a bridge between the past and the future. (p.136)

Preparation Step:

- envisioning prayer
- thinking big
- discover our passion
- experience the dream
- question the dream for clarity
- demonstrate patience

Process Step has four potential options (see p. 139):

1. expand your Mission
2. build on Core Values
3. modeling after another vision
4. building on the strategy (141) – founded on core values and the following five elements:
  - a. reaching the church's community
  - b. making mature disciples
  - c. building a ministry team
  - d. assessing the ministry setting
  - e. raising ministry finances