

University Mennonite Church Vision Statement

All generations serving God and the world together

The leadership team recently met with the visioning group. We thanked the group for their work over the last 20 months and released them from the committee's original charge.

Now that our church has settled on the vision statement above, the real work begins.

How do we make these words come alive and integrate them into the daily work and worship at UMC?

This is not the work of just the visioning team or leadership team; it is the work of all who participate in the life of the church.

The visioning group shared that as we think about the statement and what it means for the life of the church, it may be helpful to think in terms of motive, goals, and actions.

For example:

- A **motive** could be to encourage our children and youth to think of the church as their own.
- The related **goal** is that as children and youth grow older, they will want to continue to participate in the life of the church.
- Related **actions** would be to encourage intergenerational Sunday school activities and to find ways to include children and youth in worship.

The following are things for individuals and committees to think about and act on:

- Let's encourage each other to celebrate the good work going on at UMC. Incorporate remembering and celebration into gatherings, including worship and meetings.
- "*All generations*" is meant to be inclusive of infants, children, youth, college students, young parents, singles, retirees, and older folks—everyone that participates in the life of the church.
- As we plan meetings and gatherings, let's consider how to encourage broad participation in our worship, fellowship meals, committee meetings, and other gatherings.
- Identify the things that make the statement "alive" and keep doing those things.
 - How are we serving God and where is the Spirit leading us?
 - How do we include all generations in the life of the church?
- Promote the vision statement visually. Examples might be:
 - Banners in the sanctuary, classrooms, and foyer
 - Use of the vision statement on outside signage
 - Use of the vision in our printed bulletins and displayed on our web site.
- Look at our facility and spaces through the eyes of visitors. How does our physical environment help to encourage the vision and make it come alive?

Thanks for your help in living into the new vision statement at UMC.