

April 6, 2009

Progress on “Ministry Vision” Recommendations

Beginning 2007, the Session of Liberty Corner began to explore ways to more fully live into the mission God has given to this faith community “To Make Disciples for Jesus Christ.” In January of 2008, that mission was stretched to not only “make disciples”, but to seek to grow a contagious community. The revised vision became “To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ Who Make Disciples...”

The next challenge was to find ways to effectively live that mission. The Strategic Vision Team along with a noted church consultant, Rev. Bill Easum, helped refine that mission understanding with seven recommendations. The following recommendations were adopted by the Session in June 2008. Each recommendation is followed by a description of the progress that is being made toward full realization of the recommendation.

1. September 2008, Begin Designing In-depth Spiritual Formation

Pastor Anne Havrilla is working with a Spiritual Formation Team to identify and develop leadership in the Spiritual Formation ministry for Sunday mornings, Tuesday night Crossroads and Small Groups. To date, 14 new leaders have been added to the team. New designs for team teaching opportunities and creative curriculum have allowed a wide variety of new leaders to be incorporated into this growing ministry. Topics in the classes offer opportunity to engage and understand postmodern culture as well as deepen in the faith journey. Spiritual Formation will be offered during two different hours on Sunday mornings, beginning after Easter 2009, to encourage more participation in the classes. The call to raise up disciples also finds expression in Spiritual Formation through the beginning of Antioch Groups, which are triad discipleship groups.

2. By January 2009 Begin Functioning like a Large Church

This call to “function like a large church” involves both the logistical functioning of the church and the way we raise up leadership to stretch this ministry to take the next steps. To strengthen the logistical functioning of the church, Liberty Corner raised up Cindy DuHaime from among our operations staff to be the Office Manager. The Facilities Manager Al Peters is working along side Cindy and their staff to implement a smooth room reservation/set up process, a purchase order system, and other operations procedures to streamline and facilitate the smooth order of a very active ministry.

The Session has also redefined their role to meet this challenge. Beginning in January 2009 the

Session has begun a 3-year process to reduce the size of the Session from 15 to 9 members. This smaller team has moved from being the programmatic leadership of particular ministries in the church to being the “spiritual leaders” of the whole church. As needed, elders will work with different ministries of the church, bringing an “elder’s voice” to help move and shape our ministry to be more in line with the mission to “make disciples who make disciples...” This move allows the operations of the church to be driven by those in operations positions where accountability will lie. Session will be more focused on strategic direction, working with the pastoral staff on accomplishing our goals and our overall spiritual growth. Each area of ministry is charged with the call to raise up lay leadership and equip those leaders to stretch and grow the ministry to live more and more fully the outreach calling of discipleship.

3. By Fall of 2008 Get Clear on Your Core Ministries



The Session approved a Core ministry design in March 2009. This Core definition of ministry will focus the efforts of Liberty Corner so that we can effectively live the mission of the church “to make disciples who make disciples.” This core will both help in the discernment of resource allocation and will assist in mission interpretation to capture and move the heart of the faith community into the mission. Beginning April 26, 2009 this Core design will be explored in worship, and used throughout the ministry to define and refine our outreach efforts.

4. By Early 2009 Develop a Lay Mobilization System

The Fall 2008 spiritual formation reflects a start on the process of developing a lay mobilization system. The lay mobilization system will identify those who are ready, recruit those who are willing, discern those who are open to coaching (database of interests), equip those who commit the time, deploy those who are ready and coach them along in their ministry. Each staff and lay leader within the ministry is charged with identifying potential leadership to begin developing.

5. By 2009, Begin Living into Our Mission Statement, “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Liberty Corner is being called to have an outward focus. Jesus commands us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” In this calling, we nurture our faith community, not just for our own health, but rather to equip us to reach out to a lost world. Early in 2008 the Session amended our Mission Statement to read, “Making Disciples who make Disciples.” This revised mission statement will remind us that we are all called to deepen in our relationship with Jesus Christ so that we can reach out to our community in the name of Jesus. The process of defining our Core

Ministries, as discussed in #3, will focus the direction of our ministries at Liberty Corner toward God's call to "make disciples that make disciples."

6. Begin Now Improving All Worship Services – Goal: Consistent High Quality

In June 2008 we shifted from the old paradigm of having the choir director oversee all of worship and hired Kathy Tozier as full time Director of Worship Arts Ministry. Kathy is working with all the music and worship arts leaders, staff and volunteers, to vision cast, encourage, and adequately resource them for improved and consistently high quality worship. Amy Dilts was hired in July 2008 as part-time choir director for our adult choirs. A new worship order and additional choral music have been added to the traditional services, and all our choirs are growing. Enhancements to the sound system in the sanctuary were completed this year. A new sound board and computer were installed in the fall and amplification of the choir loft was completed in Jan. 2009.

The contemporary worship team and media ministry are serving faithfully in providing an excellent worship experience for our congregation. The hiring of Peter Allen as part-time worship producer, the introduction of MediaShout, and enhanced use of video and on-screen graphics are enlivening the visual aspect of worship. Having a primary worship leader and musical director enables greater consistency of instrumental and vocal quality. While still maintaining a contemporary style, the music is moving toward an edgier sound. Worship Arts Ministry and Student Life Ministry are cooperating in the grassroots efforts foundational to a new style of worship for the emerging generation. A new Sunday morning schedule will be introduced in mid-June providing greater outreach opportunities through worship and better stewardship of our resources.

7. Develop consistency in your youth program around worship and small groups

January 2009 Liberty Corner welcomed to our staff Steve Janssen to design and lead our new Student Life Ministry. Steve brings a vision and passion for reaching students for Jesus Christ. Under his leadership the whole of student ministry (grade 6-12) is taking new shape and direction. PULSE (Sr. High), Seeker (Confirmation) and Elevate (Middle School) along with other youth opportunities in music, sports and service will partner together to offer a comprehensive outreach ministry to students. In the discipleship model of Liberty Corner, Steve is raising up and developing a strong lay team as partners in growing this outreach of Liberty Corner.