

An update from the



JOURNEY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

We hope you have had a chance to read the new vision draft. If you have not, copies are still available in the nar-thex and in your December 2011 newsletter.

From the vision draft, members of the Journey Coordinating Team, the Vision Panel (who wrote the draft from congregational input throughout the Journey), and Session developed some key areas that will focus our energy and resources at Grace Community. Key Result Areas point to those critical few areas of attention and work that “key” to living our vision for Grace. They serve as the organizing principle for thinking about, planning for, and implementing our Guiding Vision.

A Life-Transforming Community

One life is able to influence another to live for God.

As a community, we have the ability to invite others into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ through the witness of our lives, the practices of faith, and the sharing of our friendships.

A Bridge-Building Community

Rebuilding the broken bridges of damaged relationships of individuals to God, family, church, through the reconciliation process.

Building a community seeking to do the will of God in their own lives and help others discern His will for them.

Peacemaking and seeking reconciliation are intrinsic aspects of following Jesus faithfully.

Demonstrating an active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ.

Building partnerships with others in our community who seek a better world.

A Community of Celebration, Worship, and Prayer

Celebrations are moments that nurture the soul, define our culture, our life, our love and our passions.

Worship and prayer are a means to grow and enjoy our relationship with God.

Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking to be present for God in Christ. God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another.

A Community of Generosity

Generosity describes the Christian’s unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ.

Congregations that practice Extravagant Generosity provide ministries that address our spiritual need to give in ways that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures.

Through the practice of Extravagant Generosity, we offer our gifts in a manner that support the causes that transform life and relieve suffering and that enlarges the soul and sustains the spirit. God uses our giving to reconfigure our interior lives and form us anew. We give back.

A Community of Learning and Imagination

Learning refers to all the practices that help us grow in faith outside of weekly worship, such as bible studies, Sunday School, small groups, and prayer and service teams.

Imagination pushes us out of our comfort zone, stretching us

January 22, we will be asking all church leaders to plan to meet with their respective groups and committees to share these questions:
If we lived this vision, what would we be doing? What would it look and feel like? Does it reinforce/affirm what we are already doing? If so, what? Does it allow us to do something differently? If so, what 1-2 new things or activities does this vision invite us to consider?

