

O U R V I S I O N



BUILDING
THE VISION

of God's Future

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

O u r M i s s i o n

We, as individuals and as a congregation,
Strive to serve **God** by walking with **Christ**,
Empowered by the **Holy Spirit**, to reach the **individual**,
touch the community, and **serve** the world.

5 Y e a r V i s i o n

Over the past eight years, God has entrusted us with discipling a growing number of children, youth and adults. Our worship attendance has grown from an average of 180 people to over 360. If we continue this annual 7% growth, an average of 500 - 600 people will be worshipping in our sanctuary by 2007. God calls all ages to follow this vision.

The Purpose of Our Emerging Vision is to:

1. Provide our Age Boards, Purpose Groups and Empowerment Groups a vision and direction for our future.
2. Provide the Building Committee with details on what kinds of facilities we need to support this vision.
3. Provide the Building Committee with ideas for promoting the building campaign in terms of our current situation and where we would like to be in five years.

1 1 C o r e V a l u e s

1. We express love for God in creative, evolving and meaningful worship.
2. We are part of Christ's extended family, caring for each other and welcoming other.
3. We seek to positively impact our neighbor, community and world
4. We will actively follow God's lead in our growth.
5. We challenge people to hear God's call in their lives and invest their gifts in expressions of love.
6. We encourage every member to use his or her unique gifts in service to the Lord.
7. We encourage and appreciate the need for freedom in expressing a wide variety of viewpoints.
8. We value the uniqueness that children, youth and adults bring to the spiritual journey of the congregation.
9. We foster positive development of children and youth.
10. We value input from all in making major decisions.
11. We encourage sacrificial giving.

In **five years** we would like to be...

E v a n g e l i s m

(Radical Hospitality)

We want to invite unchurched people from a wide geographical area into a life changing relationship with Christ. There will be

- Teams of people with appropriate spiritual gifts available to mentor persons in initial and ongoing relationships with Christ. Friendship Evangelism training will be broadly offered to support this work.
- Increases of African Americans in the congregation, growing from 1% to 10%.
- Average 7% growth of number of people per year participating in our life in Christ together.
- Adults, youth and children who invite relatives, friends and neighbors to all activities and classes at John Wesley. Personal invitation is the number one reason people attend church for the first time.
- Strong awareness in the community that we offer focused life skills training and neighbors will feel welcome to attend.

F e l l o w s h i p

(Radical Hospitality, as a community) (Faith Forming Relationships)

We want to offer large and small group opportunities that form a sense of belonging to the church as a whole. We seek participation in our life in Christ together. There will be

- Quarterly events that bring all ages of the church family together, i.e. Hanging of the Greens, Church picnic, ice cream social, and pancake supper.
- Continued growth in the Wednesday Fellowship Suppers with other activities and study groups making use of the synergy of the evening.
- Regularly offered small group opportunities for developing friendships, i.e. round- robin dinners.
- Intentional efforts on the part of all members to engage in conversation about Christ with someone they do not know inside and outside of the church.

W o r s h i p

(Passionate Worship)

We want to offer worship services that express our love for God and allow us to experience the transforming power of Jesus Christ. There will be

- At least three distinct worship offerings to attract a wide range of spiritual needs. Possibilities for services include our present two on Sunday morning, the new “Act 2” geared toward young adults, a service featuring music and style attractive to African – Americans, one centered on prayer and healing, and perhaps one service more quietly contemplative with frequent participation in the Lord’s Supper.
- Many opportunities for adult, youth and children to share their spiritual gifts related to worship: creative arts, preaching, teaching, music, media, technical support, etc.
- Youth and children choosing to worship on a regular basis.
- Outside area that, by its design, invites people to stop and be aware of God’s presence.

D i s c i p l e s h i p

(Faith Forming Relationships)

We want to help people in body, mind, and spirit to be equipped for biblical and Christ centered skills in their life situations. There will be

- Ongoing classes in life skills (parenting, marriage, relationships, personal finances, prayer, spiritual gifts, ethics, caring for parents, nutrition, emotional well-being, etc.).
- Small groups geared toward growth in Christ and mutual care at a ratio of 1 small group for every 10 people in worship.
- On-going focus on Spiritual leadership development
- Worship and classes for healing prayer.
- Full range of Disciple Bible Study and Sunday morning bible studies.
- Age relevant classes and growth- providing opportunities for youth and children that address their life situations and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- 75% of our adults, youth and children knowing and using their spiritual gifts.
- Library, which holds resources for discipleship studies: books, study guides, audio & visual aids etc.

M i s s i o n s

(Risk taking Service)

We want to increase our hands on mission opportunities locally and globally in order to share in the love of Christ, be changed by those we serve, and be faithful to Christ's desire to share the gifts we have generously received.

There will be

- Summer work camps, local services such as Habitat for Humanity, tutoring school age children, and teams sent to missions we support globally.
- Keeping a sharp focus on current mission project commitments while the building work is occurring.
- Mission projects proposed that aim to exceed our human and financial resources, placing faith in God to make it happen.
- Adults, youth and children alike will focus expressions of their faith and spiritual growth, resulting from their works to help other people.

S u p p o r t

We want to provide office space for our staff that is welcoming to visitors, and provides confidentiality.

There will be. . . .

- Offices for each staffing area: office manager; pastors; youth, children, and adult ministries; and music.

E m p o w e r m e n t G r o u p s

- Financial - Fiscal responsibility, good budgeting and use of God's monies.
- Trustees – Facility and parsonage care emphasizing, scheduled maintenance, looking ahead for repairs needed, not emergency fixes.
- Staff Parish Relations Committee – A close relationship between staff, pastors and volunteers
- Administrative Council – A visionary group leading our church in a Godly direction.