

## HCI Vision Statement Update:

During the first weekend in May, we had our Healthy Church Initiative workshop with our consultants here at the church. One task coming out of that workshop was to create a Vision statement for the church to move us forward in the years to come.

The first thing that you need to know is the definition of a Vision Statement: “as strategic planning for an organization or church process of defining strategy, or direction and making decisions on allocating this”. A Vision Statement needs to be short and something that is not easy to be achieved but you are always reaching to achieve.

We need to hear what the hopes and dreams are from the congregation, so we set up four sessions to get input from the congregation. There was approximately 22% of the congregation that took time to meet with us and provide their feedback. We want to thank those individuals for their time and openness to share their dreams with us. There were several key words which kept coming up from the individuals who attended these sessions and we would like to share those words with you:

- Disciples
- Leadership
- Active congregation
- Community
- Younger and new members
- Open, Friendly
- Web site, face book, Twitter (Newer technology to reach younger people)
- Music
- Technology
- Quality Nursery
- Playground
- Next generation
- Programs

We also asked individuals who came to Food @ Faith in June to complete a questionnaire regarding our church. There were 28 individuals who took the time to complete this form and, of those 28, 21 had never heard of Faith United Methodist Church before this program was established. So we have some work to do to in order to help people within the community to learn more about other programs or services we have to offer individuals. There were several excellent feedback comments from these individuals and most everyone welcomed the Food @ Faith program, enjoyed coming to the church, which provides this service in the community. They commented on the openness of the people who work at this event, the fellowship with each another, and that they felt welcomed as they were greeted by our church members.

The next step in the process was to have a brainstorming session and pray about the task at hand. After much discussion and with compromise, we drafted a statement. We asked each member of the committee to go home, pray, and think about the statement we drafted. We agreed to get back together in about two weeks to finalize our draft, distribute this to the congregation, and ask for their feedback.

The Vision Statement draft will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. At the time, we will ask them to pray about the statement and how it affects our church. We need to remember that if

for some reason(s) we need to change the statement, we can always go back, revisit it, and make changes at a later date.

The Vision Statement will be presented at the August 2013 Church Council meeting and ask for their approval. The Vision Statement is as follows:

“Our vision of ministry for Faith United Methodist Church inspires us to engage our community through telling and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, intentionally designing programs that will equip all who respond to be disciples of Jesus and empowering leaders who will partner with God for the healing of the world.”

**Key Words in from the Vision Statement:**

Engaging – Our Community

Equip – Disciples of Jesus Christ

Empowering – Leadership who will partner with God

It is no one individual’s Vision Statement, but it belongs to everyone who wants to live out their lives with Jesus Christ.

We want to thank you, the congregation, for entrusting us with this important piece of our future vision- in what we stand for, and how with everyone’s help, we plan to move our church forward.

Shalom:

Janice Kaupa

Sherry Scholljegerges

Peter Fog

Pastor Victor

David Baldini