



**MISSION,
VISION,
AND MINISTRY PLAN
2013**

**Adopted by the Main St. UMC Church Council
May 7, 2013**

HOW WE GOT HERE THE STORY OF THE MSUMC VISION TEAM

In January 2012, a group of dedicated folk began meeting as the newly formed Vision Team under the guidance of Jim Arant, our Greenwood District Congregational Specialist.¹ The group was formed with the idea that all age groups be represented; we then expanded to include representatives from each adult Sunday School. Monthly meetings were convened through the spring and summer.

Our first task was to gather demographics on Main Street and Greenwood, including a financial picture and history of MSUMC. Interviews were conducted with key community leaders using specific questions. The questions and answers were shared as part of a presentation to the congregation in the fall. In addition to monthly meetings, research assignments were carried out by members of the team between meetings. We were encouraged by the energy and interest all brought to the work of the team.

By mid-fall we were ready to offer our insights to the church. Meetings of the Vision Team were more frequent as a presentation was prepared. Presentations were then made in each adult Sunday School class and on a Wednesday night. Harold McDonald and Lindsay Burns were instrumental in designing and writing the presentations. The initial presentation was followed by *affinity exercises* in each class and on several weekday nights so as many as possible would be able to shape the future of MSUMC. All were asked to write down their top five priorities. These were then grouped, and all present were given dots to vote on their priorities. The information was collected and sorted into common categories by the Vision Team. The work was messy but fruitful.

The preliminary results were then presented to Sunday School classes and again on a Wednesday night so all would be informed. The Vision Team met several times to compose a memorable mission statement and a vision statement to answer the question, “Are we being faithful to our mission?” In late 2012 and early 2013 the Vision Team broke into subcommittees and wrote goals for the top five clusters of concerns: 1) Missions and Outreach, 2) Visitation and Evangelism, 3) Worship, 4) Spiritual Formation, and 5) Finance and Stewardship. The goals for each area were then reviewed, edited, and approved by consensus. The document was discussed by the staff, and several edits for consistency and style followed. The document that follows is the report in its current form with room for your notes, comments, and questions under each section.

As a member of the Church Council, read the document carefully and prayerfully. Begin to pray for the staff and other groups who will be asked to implement these goals as we continue to serve God and make Main Street a place where “we embrace our calling to grow as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ by faithfully worshipping our holy God with love and devotion, compassionately serving those in need, building bridges to the diverse neighborhoods that surround us, and welcoming all to hear God’s story.” Thanks for your part in the holy work of discernment. Together we ask, “What is your vision for us, Lord Jesus?”

¹ Team members are Linda and Harold McDonald, Hunter and Chris Behrmann, Debbie Tharpe, Mary and Shell Dula, Jon Bassett, Mary Birchmore, Joebie Adams, Lindsay Burns, Nancy Moore, Cindy Logan, Kathy Kelly, Cecil Gray, Sarah Gaye Norris, Brab Crooks, Charlie Barrineau, Carol Harley, plus Jim Arant (District Consultant)

MAIN STREET UMC
MISSION AND VISION, GOALS AND ACTIONS

I. MISSION AND VISION

A. Mission Statement (Brief, Captures Our Local Identity, Branding).

“Following Christ from City Center”

B. Vision Statement (“How are we faithful to our mission?”)

As members of Main Street United Methodist Church,
we embrace our calling to grow as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ by:

- * Faithfully worshipping our holy God with love and devotion
- * Compassionately serving those in need
- * Building bridges to the diverse neighborhoods that surround us
- * Welcoming all to hear God’s story

We follow Christ by faithful participation in the mission and vision of our church.

II. GOALS AND ACTIONS IN FIVE KEY AREAS.

- A. Mission and Outreach
- B. Visitation And Evangelism
- C. Worship
- D. Spiritual Formation
- E. Finance and Stewardship

A. Mission And Outreach

Goal:

MSUMC will identify, claim, publicize, celebrate, and strengthen all the missions that presently operate under the banner of this congregation and find ways to support their leaders and ministry teams. It is important for our people to know what is going on and why.

2013 Actions:First Quarter

- _____ 1. Identify all missions and outreach opportunities (including apportionments) both within and outside the church. Identify their leaders, team, budget impact and create a short description of their work for publicity.
2. Interview all leaders under No. 1 above and find ways to support and strengthen their work.
3. Name and claim our big projects for the year: Salkehatchie, Honduras Mission, Cold-weather shelter, Weekly Food Pantry, etc.

Second Quarter

- _____ 4. Publicize the results of No. 1 above and hold a celebration, perhaps in the form of a Missions Fair! Integrate this missions information in our web site with its own tab.
5. Pray in worship for each of our missions, and have its leaders On The Witness Stand to share their story and stir people's hearts.
6. Begin to ask questions about the four quadrants of our downtown mission: the mill village, Lander, downtown, neighborhoods and apartments.

Third Quarter

7. Plan a fall weekend missions conference focused on overseas mission.
8. Offer a class on world missions.
9. Invite a missions professor from Erskine Seminary or another academic institution in for a lecture to answer the question, "What's happening in world missions?"

Fourth Quarter

- _____ 10. Adopt a foreign missionary for 2014.
 11. Vision, budget, and planning for 2014.
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12. New tradition of a 4 week Advent preparation for a big offering on Christmas Eve for missions.
13. Support and send a team to Honduras in Fall 2013.

B. Visitation And Evangelism

Goal:

MSUMC- through the Evangelism Committee, Care Team, and Membership Secretary- will build several new tracking and outreach systems into the life of the church in order to care for and reach out to people.

2013 Actions:

Evangelism

1. Letter, call, and follow-up systems for all worship and Sunday School guests.
2. Quarterly "What Is Main Street?" coffee and discussion after worship in the parlor.
3. Develop a 4-session new members class and offer it 3 times a year.
4. Help members identify, pray for, serve, and reach out to their circles of influence.
5. Offer The Alpha Course 2x/year and a basic course on sharing your faith.
6. Sponsor a yearly revival series or church teaching mission.

Care Team

1. Form a comprehensive plan to link caring resources to people with needs. Include in this plan the use of the Stephen Ministry materials on reaching inactives and dropouts.
 2. Support the comprehensive renewal of our Stephen Ministry.
 3. Find ways to build up the fellowship and loving connections of MSUMC.
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4. Plan a twice yearly “week of friendship and visitation” to cover the entire church with a letter, a personal contact, and a brief conversation. This is simply basic contact work that says *we care* and want to find ways to keep people vitally connected to the life of MSUMC. A brief training will be offered.

Membership Secretary

1. Complete a Membership Audit and bring our records in line with U.M. standards.
2. Work with Emmie on configuring our ACS software to serve our needs by tracking and giving us accurate information for pastoral care and discipleship.
3. Institute a system of worship tracking that contacts people with a card after 3 consecutive absences, a personal call after a 4th, and a personal visit if absences continue. The goal is to identify needs to be met and difficulties to be discussed before they lead to church departures. In case of a transfer to another church in Greenwood, we suggest an exit interview to give feedback to church leadership. This is both a pastoral care and a loss prevention issue.
4. Code our members on a 1-4 scale (core, faithful, connected, inactive) so we may create strategies for discipleship for each audience.

C. Worship

Goal:

MSUMC will create worship experiences, based on the teachings and Discipline of the United Methodist Church, where people connect with God and are eager to praise and encounter the living God.

2013 Actions:

1. Serve the Lord and bring glory to Him through the gifts that He has given us by offering worship that targets all ages, demographic and spiritual temperaments.
- * Evaluate our current worship services and see what might be missing to
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attract a neighborhood demographic that is not currently worshipping with us. For example, Lander Students. Based on that evaluation, create action plans to address that area.

- * Based on input the vision committee and the worship committee has gathered, develop a worship plan that engages all the senses through dynamic, creative, and inspiring teaching methods that meet the spiritual temperaments in our congregation.
2. Utilize music and singing to magnify God and keep our worship fresh. Our ministry will reach out and uplift all God's people.
 - * Work with music director to leverage musicians in the church and community to introduce a variety of instruments and musicians that can be used to glorify God and reach different styles of worshipers.
 - * Introduce new songs and sing old songs in ways we haven't before.
 - * Continue the 5th Sunday singing.
 - * Several times a year blend the worship services with a range of music that meets the desires of the different worship styles.
 3. Use revivals to minister to the churched and un-churched people in our community and surrounding areas who desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - * Support and communicate to community all special services, conferences and special spiritual enrichment events.
 - * Based on feedback of January revival, with the guidance of the Pastor determine if and when a follow up revival should be held.
 4. We want to glorify God by planning for excellence in all of our worship services at Main Street United Methodist Church. We want to create an environment for worship and praise so that all can participate without distractions.
 - * Create a process to collect reports of technical issues that may have interfered with worship and a way to act upon these suggestions.
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- * Evaluate if current times of worship services currently meet the need of worshipers.
- * Update facilities in the fellowship hall to enhance the worship experience for the Early Service and other studies and programs that are held there.

D. Spiritual Formation

Goal:

MSUMC will take seriously our commitment to make new disciples and equip current disciples for the works of ministry. We will offer a variety of settings, experiences, and curriculums for spiritual formation in Christlikeness for all ages.

2013 Actions:

1. Sunday school classes with appropriate literature and/or visual media to encourage discussion and spiritual growth (take inventory of lesson plans/series available for use and make readily available for teachers/leaders).
 2. Offer opportunities for developing spiritual disciplines.
 3. Offer basic Christianity classes.
 4. Offer long term and short term Bible study classes.
 5. Offer small groups to encourage discussion and growth in spirituality.
 6. Offer men's and women's groups to discuss current events and relevant topics with opportunities for missions.
 7. Offer multi-generational activities combining people of different backgrounds, ages, and interests.
 8. Offer interactive activities on spiritual formation for all youth 6th– 12th grades.
 9. Engaging additional activities for preschool and elementary aged children.
 10. Vacation Bible School.
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11. All activities should be fruitful and engaging (quality vs. quantity); ask for feedback from all participants.

E. Finance And Stewardship

Goal:

MSUMC will give close attention to strengthening our mission by lifting up the privilege and responsibility of a comprehensive approach to stewardship. We will give people many opportunities to give, and we will manage the resources we receive from God's people with integrity and accountability. We will not be embarrassed to talk about money and will always link it with following Christ.

2013 Actions:

1. Integrate the budget planning process with the vision/goal setting process.
 - * Define/validate specific strategic directions during the summer planning period.
 - * Convert those strategic directions into specific plans/programs (including any discontinuances) and present to the council.
 - * Include these approved plans and programs in the budget planning process.
 - * Conduct the commitment program in the fall with the full knowledge of the needs for the coming year to accomplish the agreed to goals.
 2. Create an environment of 'wanting to give' by making stewardship of time and resources a 365 day a year focus.
 - * Convert the Stewardship Committee into a full-time active committee with key communication responsibilities regarding stewardship.
 - * Enhance financial awareness of the membership by increasing reporting and aligning it with strategies.
 - * Use the 'step chart' from the Grow-One-Step Campaign to effectively communicate the goals and results of our yearly campaign.
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- * Keep comparative data on the yearly Grow-One-Step stewardship campaign to show:
 - 1) the number who moved up one or more steps,
 - 2) the number and percentage who moved to the tithe and beyond,
 - 3) how many moved from non-giving to giving.

 - * Increase the number of family units pledging or making an 'estimated yearly contribution.

 - * Continue the current Consecration Sunday approach that appears to be working as a multi-year program.

 - * Create a new summary chart that reflects the Total Giving to the Church. That would include all money processed through the books of the church.

 - * Create a new summary chart that allocates all of the money spent into one of the 5 strategic categories. This would include allocating personnel and building costs to the various strategies and would reflect spending in line with the strategies.

 - 3. Actively market the Foundation's ability to assist in the long term (and perhaps short term) needs of the Church. Member awareness of the Foundation as an estate option is essential. Allocate any unexpected estate gifts according to The Methodist Discipline but with a bias towards the Foundation.

 - 4. Pay 100% of conference apportionments each year.
 - * Pay 1/12 of apportionments each month.

 - 5. Pay down the existing mortgage in 3 years through additional promotional campaigns and targeted solicitation.

 - 6. The idea was discussed, "Because you give, these things are possible," as a way of organizing our stewardship communications.
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Appendix 1: Vision Team Concerns And Recommendations

1. That a representative from the current Vision Team be elected to the Church Council as our chairman so that the vision, research, and planning functions are not kept separate but integrated into our governance. Also that the team members be formed as an ongoing committee and tasked with meeting at least quarterly to monitor progress and respond to new challenges.

APPROVED

NOMINATIONS WILL REPORT PERSONS FOR ELECTION.

2. That, once modified and accepted by the Church Council, this material be communicated in writing, oral presentations, and through ongoing creative communications to the entire church. We aim at understanding, ownership, action, and celebration.
3. Because this plan affects many leaders and current committees which are already in progress doing their work, we want to make sure that once the Mission, Vision, Goals and Actions are adopted, that they be worked through in a respectful way with the relevant persons for ownership and action.
4. It is understood that the Pastor as the staff leader and the SPRC will work together with the staff to align staff priorities and energies with these goals. An item will be added to each staff meeting: How are you/we doing with our support of church goals?
5. This document does not include budget recommendations. Some of the items may require funding; some do not. It is not until implementation begins that these will become clear and will have to be worked through with the Finance Committee. Many of the items do not require funds as much as new processes and new types of open and cooperative relationships.
6. This a serious first effort at vision and planning. Our goal is to learn as we go and to improve the process each year. Comments and ideas are welcome.
7. Once accepted, this document becomes a key piece of our ministry plan.

APPROVED BY CHURCH COUNCIL BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, May 7, 2013

Appendix 2: MSUMC Church Council

Chairperson	Karl Kelly
Vice Chairperson	Joanne Campbell
Recording Secretary	Angela Rowland
*Lay Leader	Mary Lynn Polk
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Mary Lynn Polk
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Glenn Williams
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Marilyn Murphy
*Lay Members to Annual Conference	Kit Adkins
Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jo Patterson and Mary Dula
Church Treasurer	Bob Cureton
Chairperson, Committee on Lay Leadership	Pastor Phil Thrailkill
Chairperson, Board of Trustees	Cindy Skinner
Chairperson, Committee on Finance	Chris Behrmann
Chairperson, Stewardship	Shell Dula
Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Brab Crooks
Chairperson, Worship Committee	Carol Harley
Chairperson, Communications Committee	Lindsay Burns
Chairperson, Evangelism Committee	Susan Thompson
Chairperson, Missions Committee	Mark Robirds
Chairperson, Member Care Committee	Jim Kelly
Chairperson, History Committee	Betty Stockman
Director of Music Ministries	Larry Moore
President, United Methodist Women	Zella Williams
President, United Methodist Men	Sonny Hines
Prayer Ministry	Kit Adkins
Membership Secretary	Barb Robinette
Chairperson, Foundation	Joe Chandler

Last revised, June 20, 2013
