

TPC VISIONING 2/26/06 DATA

BUILDING CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY

- Strengthen internal community
- Strengthen the sense of the church as a living community, larger and deeper than any of us individually
- Strengthen inner bonds
- Foster sense of community
- Strengthen internal community, build supportive connections
- Grow together through more organized activities
- Strengthen links between ourselves
- Promote links so that we grow & support each other in compassionate community
- Church as magnet for those who want to come together to bond, share, encourage, pursuit of satisfactory, worthwhile lives.
- Find ways to connect to draw strength from this community
- Community within TPC: supportive, “holding” environment for one another, a place to share, evolve, nourish
- More social opportunity to help us each feel connected to the community
- SMALL GROUPS/SUPPORT GROUPS
 - For parents w/ teens
 - Support group for parents w/ teens
 - Parent groups
 - Small groups meet for support
 - Small group ministries
 - Small group ministry
 - Opportunities for connections between individuals and in small groups
 - Conflict resolution
 - Pathways, companions, & assistance through life’s phases & challenges
- SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:
 - Opportunities for open-ended, unhurried conversation and interaction
 - Friday night gatherings in Parish Hall
 - Continue our great coffee hour
 - Discussions around lectures, films, books, musical events, to make social, intellectual, emotional connections
 - Organize family outings or play dates
 - 2-3 families going to a museum together
 - Church-wide getting-to-know-each-other event(s)
 - Country dance
 - Drum Circle
 - Practically runs itself
 - Brings all ages together (rhythm is a common language)
 - Will attract other people in area
- COMMUNICATION
 - Communication and networking
 - Regular communication from committees, such as quarterly reports
 - Bulletin boards, virtual and physical, for community communication

- Sharing of information
- Better connection and communication among congregational members
- Invite personal reflections from people about a struggle or dilemma they are facing (in worship?)
- HEALING, SOLACE & RENEWAL
 - Church should be a source of healing and renewal
 - Continue to be a place where people can go for solace and comfort.
 - Keep the spiritual home-fire burning strong to nourish us.
 - Continue and increase developing a loving, supportive community from which to move out into our local community
 - Our religious home a place of welcome and activity every day
 - Given that the larger world is in “troubled times” important to have a place to renew and reconnect
 - Core mission: to nourish and sooth our spirits, both an individual and collective experience
- CARING COMMITTEE
 - Attend to members needs such as...
 - Ride to hospital
 - Death in family
 - Help moving
- WORK FOR MORE COHESION
 - Develop common theme in community from which we can explore our differences constructively. Dialogue enables us to appreciate others views and examine our own
 - Create more cohesion in community, but how? The more you participate the more you cohere to the group.
 - Seems like people identify with separate groups/special interests (families w/ young children, RE, GLBT, long-time members, etc. If all these groups felt connected to and supported by one another, it would strengthen our spiritual journeys
- ACTION WITHIN COMMUNITY
 - Church as context where people can develop skills and realize dreams
 - Support those who support the church
 - Are we putting our energies to the best use? Are we creating unneeded stress for ourselves?
- INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS
 - Strong commitment to making this community relevant & responsive to the young people within it
 - Creation of more youth & child friendly church groups and activities
 - Bringing children and youth into full participation in community, affirm their special contribution
 - “It takes a church community to raise our children”
 - Integrate children into our church life in a more meaningful way
 - Strengthen youth group and help them integrate into congregation
 - Active involvement between children, youth, and adults
 - Find ways to keep kids involved with the church as they get older and keep RE appealing to them
 - An intergenerational community where we participate and invest in the lives of and raising of the children and reinforce shared values

- Teen mentoring
- INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
 - Involve youth more in worship services
 - More youth services that include the older kids
 - More intergenerational worship
 - More *truly* intergenerational worship—not just adult worship with children’s story in it.
 - More combined child-adult services
 - Encourage youth leadership in worship
- INTERGENERATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION
 - Intergenerational social action, such as food project
 - Foster more social action in youth and children
 - Teaching children selflessness through volunteering & giving, taking them outside themselves.
 - Encourage youth leadership in outreach
- INTERGENERATIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 - More participation from non-parents, or people who’s kids are grown in Religious Education
 - Integrated RE experiences for all generations to help adults and children live out our principles
 - More intergenerational learning opportunities
 - Integrate children’s chapel, classes, sermon topics and church programs
 - Children’s RE program should engage non-parent parishioners as well as parents
 - Artistic and musical resources to support RE
 - Children have buddy or mentor system, like adults, to introduce older members to new visitors.
 - Circle time amongst all the RE kids/classes so that they can see each other, learn each other’s names, get to know each other, build relationships
 - Formal coming of age ritual/process that involves non-parent adult in mentoring child through the process.
 - More concrete, creative, established RE curriculum to facilitate teaching/planning (perhaps w/ youth involved in the creation)
- MUSIC, ART, AND WORSHIP
 - Create circle in sanctuary so people can see each other in worship
 - Move the pews into a holistic circle
 - Move pews so that we see each other and feel more connected as whole community
 - Less audience/performer dynamic, which creates an us/them feeling, for example during singing.
 - Children’s chorus
 - Children’s choir
 - Drop-in center for youth, especially for music and art, staffed by members
 - More music in different forms

- Music is the best thing among many great things about TPC
- Continuing music (participatory, chorus, instrumentalists, congregation).
Music inspires me to come to church and is an inspiration for all.
- Always strive for good music
- Continuing importance of music, youth music, and other types.
- The church is a hall where music lives
- Encourage musical growth and expectation in members of all ages
- Drop-in center for youth, especially for music and art, staffed by members
- Use music for community outreach
- VISUAL ART: An area to draw or paint ideas or feelings that would be available after the service in the same area that the social hour is happening then put creations up on walls.