

# Long range planning goals

## Goal One

*Ensure continuing vigor and vitality in worship: refresh, re-imagine, reach out.*

1. Diversify our worship styles, to reach persons with various preferences and tastes.

Provide for an alternative worship – a third service that attracts many persons, including especially youth, and features musical and liturgical forms that are attractive to persons aged 18 – 39.

2. Ensure that all Sunday morning worship services are welcoming to all.

Make services attractive to parents of young children / to young families.

Continue a “traditional” worship with vitality and energy, while continuing to incorporate some of the newer multi-media, contemporary music and instruments (e.g. drums).

Feature a strong choral music program (chancel choir) that performs sophisticated repertoires to sustain a “traditional” worship, along with a complement of the best in gospel / contemporary music that reflects our theology.

Recommendations from June 2011:

- Sound system upgrade ASAP
- Buy laptop for Plumer Hall
- Be more intentional about including youth in services
- Find occasions in worship service to advocate for projects such as Family Promise
- First service: special music; more ensemble singing
- Invite first service people to participate in some way
- Worship leader quality control and include youth in worship leading experience
- Enhance PR efforts to colleges, universities
- Continue to work towards getting TVs in sanctuary
- Add additional fabric covered chairs to our inventory

## Goal Two

*Make our faith active through serving the greater community.*

3. As an initial approach, develop means by which IUCC members and Ministries may “connect with” existing organizations in the community to offer direct services to those in need.

4. Develop programs that provide direct service to those in need, for example:

Consider developing a food pantry, or becoming a strong partner with another faith organization in running a food pantry.

Consider directly providing shelter for the homeless, or becoming a strong partner with another faith organization in running providing shelter for the homeless.

5. Strengthen programs that encourage the congregation and the broader community to make just peace, open & affirming, and environmentally aware choices.

Life up and value *witness* and *advocacy* – efforts to further peace, justice, and care for our world.

June 2011 recommendations:

- Develop the web site so that ministry chairs can have access to their own interest groups and relay information more easily to a targeted group.
- Have a direct service fair
- Have a church wide service project, such as Family Promise
- Develop a process for which other groups are encouraged to perform service projects
- Develop a green plan

## Goal Three

*In support of the report of the Task Force on Children, Youth, Young Adults & Young Families, continue and strengthen IUCC's outreach and service to these groups by providing a wide range of programs.*

6. Put Sacred Activism in the center of programs for children, youth & young adults.

7. Include music and other expressive opportunities.

8. Create new classes and small groups for youth, young adults and young families, while continuing cross-generational opportunities.

June 2011 recommendations:

- Encourage the Youth Group to be more involved with IUCCC denominational activities
- Ensure that family friendly bon Vivants continue
- Encourage kids to greet with their parents
- Provide childcare or age-appropriate activities at events like Game Nights
- Expand family friendly service opportunities
- Offer young adult programming to engage those who attend morning services, enhancing a sense of community
- Encourage the congregation to embrace Bread for the Journey as its third service
- Implement personal invitation idea at BFJ
- Encourage families to care for the IUCC garden
- Explore combined youth/young adult/adult education programs
- Encourage inter-ministries activities
- Find ways of interacting with other UCC youth groups
- Offer intergenerational programs
- Hold folk dances for all ages

## Goal Four

*Sustain and nurture our congregation by meeting the many needs of a progressive, diverse Christian community.*

9. Build vibrant small groups in which members and friends may grow in their attachments to each other, and to the congregation & its vision.

Meet social and personal growth needs in a faith context, offering opportunities to gather, explore Christian values, form friendships, and in general confront stage-of-life issues. Participate as small groups in direct service to the greater community (compare Goal Two).

10. Ensure vitality in congregational care.

Provide programs that train lay people to reach out to those in our midst who need social, emotional, and / or physical care.

Provide care to those in our own community who may have physical needs [shelter, transportation, etc.]

11. Continue, strengthen strong programs of adult education.

Strengthen, continue "signature" educational programs that bring nationally or internationally – known persons to the congregation

June 2011 recommendations:

- Begin Comma Groups in September 2011 and continue through April 2012 – Goal 100 participants
- Explore ways to integrate existing small groups with objective 9 (above).
- Continue Stephen Ministry, train additional Stephen Ministers
- Send delegates to National Stephen Ministry Leadership Training
- Develop "friendly visitor" program and perhaps home communion
- Provide training for participants in Congregational Care Ministry
- Ensure child care for all events