

Mission & Values Event Summary - October 6, 2019

Mission & Values are what define the parish's purpose and direction. It is important to be aware of our core values, and to make sure we are following them. We reviewed how our sense of mission and values help us know the larger purposes we are trying to serve, and how to prioritize our efforts. We saw our need to discern God's will above our own preferences. We recognized that God has put us together in this parish, with a particular set of spiritual gifts, to accomplish God's purposes, in our own particular ways.

67 people gathered in the parish hall, grouped into 11 tables.

Table groups discussed our existing Mission Statement: Our mission is to be an inclusive, spirited, and Christ-centered urban church community that transforms lives. Groups discussed and listed concrete examples of **ways we are** living out of these terms. Common responses included:

Inclusive: Red Door; VCU/ECM; people come from all over to this destination church

Spirited: choir & music; worship services; Circles; Red Door; mission trips

Christ-centered: all outreach programs, esp. Red Door, VCU/ECM, Circles

Groups discussed and listed **ways we are lacking** in living out each. Common responses included:

Inclusive: few people of color; children only welcome at 8:45

Spirited: we stay within our groups; lack of cohesion and fractured congregation between different worship services

Christ-centered: busyness; Sunday School for all ages, including adults

Table groups discussed our existing Vision Statement: Our vision is that every member will joyfully celebrate God's love and share the transforming power of that love in the church, in the city, and in the world. Groups discussed and listed concrete examples of **ways we are** living out of these terms. Common responses included:

Joyfully celebrate God's love: worship services (including breakfast and those who prepare for worship, like Altar Guild); music program; Red Door

Share the transforming power of that love: music; worship services; all community service activities, esp. Red Door, VCU/ECM, mission trips, Circles

Groups discussed and listed **ways we are lacking** in living out each. Common responses included:

Joyfully celebrate God's love: children's, youth, and acolyte programs; fractured Sundays; we need things for cohesion and to bring us together

Share the transforming power of that love: mission trips; engaging youth and families; marketing; 11:00 service not family- and child-friendly

Table groups discussed our existing Core Values Statement: Our behaviors will be guided by our core values of seeking, serving and caring. Groups discussed and listed concrete examples of **ways we are** living out of these terms. Common responses included:

Seeking: we are open to discussing and questioning; Christian Education; we seek God through all of our service activities

Serving: breakfast; all outreach activities, esp. Red Door, VCU/ECM, Circles, mission trips

Caring: all outreach activities, esp. Red Door and clothing closet; checking on people who are not here and connecting via flowers, shawls, visitations; prayer lists

Groups discussed and listed **ways we are lacking** in living out each. Common responses included:

Seeking: Bible Study; EFM; Christian formation for all ages; not knowing who is new makes it hard to welcome

Serving: mission trips; Sunday School; challenges presented by too many obligations, lifestyles, dual career couples, kids' other activities

Caring: not cross-pollinating between services; welcoming our youngest members

Table groups looked at examples of a maintenance mindset as compared to a mission mindset, both outside of and within the church. Each group then voted on the church examples, selecting either a more maintenance mindset or a more mission mindset for each pair of characteristics, as they saw them lived out at GHTC.

The **maintenance examples received a total of 68.5 votes** and the **mission examples received a total of 52.5 votes**, showing that some progress could be made in moving towards a more mission-minded approach. Only two tables' votes ranked the total mission mindset higher than the maintenance mindset, showing a fairly high level of agreement about the parish's overall approach. A breakdown of the subtotals of responses, by line, gives a more detailed picture. The highest numbers in the maintenance column will warrant more discussion.

Church Maintenance Mindset	Vs.	Church Mission Mindset
8.5 focus on buildings and programs		2.5 focus on God at work among us
1.5 we matter		9.5 others matter
6 operate out of obligation and necessity		5 operate out of excitement
10 accept newcomers and visitors		1 actively seek out newcomers and visitors
9.5 direct ministry to long-time members		1.5 direct ministry to new members, esp. children and youth
0 worship is non-participatory		11 worship is participatory
6 worship is rote and unchanging		5 worship is engaging and changing
4 content doing what we have been or are doing		7 burning desire to do more
8 individuals silent about their faith		3 individuals speak openly about their faith
6.5 we plan what we want to do		4.5 we plan what the people around us need
8.5 we come here because we like it here		2.5 we come here to do God's work