

The Future Event 11/17/19 – Full Transcript

Individual Discoveries:

- Senses – touch, taste and smell (lacking in current experiences)
- Group Bible study
- Own journey focus – not children/others
- Incense?
- Mission – changes with age
- Contemplative/mystic spirituality
- Support group for grown-ups whose lives are not perfect

Table 1

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Larger, more connected community attracting new families and younger families and bringing some of the old members back

- Consider contemporary service or combine 8:30/11:00 at 10:00
- Focus on sermons with messages members can relate to their own lives
- Hands on services oriented to children and youth

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

Thorough study of times and style of services with possibility of combining services to have larger #s/service

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

Children's chapel

Experimenting with different methods

Breakfast is a draw

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

Lay led Bible studies

Adult forums

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

Don't believe this should be the focus, but anything we can do to make it more obvious we are a church! Sometimes our physical facility is overshadowed by Cathedral

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?
Capture video and audio of service

Other things that may need to be considered?
Empowering people who are here to get involved and make change

Table 2

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

1. Hopefully still alive, Both G&HTC and Episcopal Church. More people in the pews. Life in the church not just on Sunday. Perception that parking is more overwhelming than reality
2. Members should get a break on Parish Hall and Kitchen use.
3. Things like facility committees, vestry, discernment committee.
4. Not be locked in to the incumbent until retirement. Regular review of Rector.

Group dispersed.

Table 3

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Inclusive caring membership

Meaningfulness to all populations (which may mean change)

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

A well designed Sunday School program (using membership to teach)

Seek ways to demonstrate we care

- Circles
- Births, deaths, events
- Illness

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

Sending flowers

Circles ministry

Invite more community organizations to share space (Circles, GRCC) (Ex: Fan District Association)

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

Sunday School

Sunday night service – VCU and families with Sunday a.m. activities

ESL instruction here, signing, literacy programs

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

Parking (during week especially)

Gamification of Sunday school and specialty apps

Programs to encourage attendance (stickers, charms, badges)

Online – GroupMe

Become Technology heavy

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?

Technology (+ people comfortable w/ same)

VCU Students to help

Table 4

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

- Unification of purpose and clear communication of those purposes
- Growth of congregation

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

- Get a rector that unifies
- Consider a CEO to manage
- How might metrics driven management change our daily operations?

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

- Discernment process

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

- Music – look at opportunities to reach out

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

- Stop fighting with Monroe Park – use it as an asset

Table 5

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Adaptive to changing needs.

Full of younger generations <50

No one has left. We're still here.
Change service times and styles – Combine 8:45 + 11:00
4:30 Family Service w/ dinner.
More social events.
A more positive undercurrent and atmosphere.

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

Stop shrinking congregation.
Reevaluating service time, and children's chapel.
Mix tradition + contemporary music.
More social activities, ping pong, oyster roast.

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

Emphasis on growing the youth
Growing social programs

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

Social activities bingo pingpong
Bible study for everyone
Meditation program.

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

More people
Instagram, snapchat
More youth activity – pilgrimage or mission

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?

Younger interns or staff. Electronically proficient

Table 6

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Hopes and Dreams

- More young people “of all ages”
- Continuing service ministry
- Rich liturgical services (and varied)
- Growing congregation
 - Variety of people attending services
 - College students
 - Those in need
 - Youth, families etc.

- Racial ethnic diversity

Different and Differently

- o Grow youth involvement
- o More people at church
- o More visitors in pews
- o Bring more friends and family to church
- o Welcoming

1 – 2 Top Visions

- o More parking
 - Greater Attendance
 - Grow Youth Program

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

- Plans – long + short term for welcoming new people
- Dedicated staff member for Youth/reconsider structure, but don't want to be top heavy
- More opportunities to meet people from other services
 - o Combine services, discussions like Interim Events

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

- Growing robust youth programming

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?
New Rector!!

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?

- Need more social media presence

Other things that may need to be considered?

- Tending to each other

Table 7

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Bring more Christians

Evangelical Clergy

Pairing our Capabilities with the parishioners

Focus on Parishioners needs, hopes

Let parish know what committees are + are doing

Being open to support new groups who present themselves

Identifying new groups and old that we don't know exist
Parking!
Improve recruiting
Calling committees

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?
Continue building communications
Dissemination information

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?
Newsletter
Visiting new prospects

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?
Start a visiting group
Hymn sing – explain some

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?
Parking
Fill up the Sunday school

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?
Buildings are adequate
Recruit more young people and keep those we have
Boy Scout troop
Parking

Table 8

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Vision for Family and Youth
 Programming
 Consistent, dedicated teachers curriculum
 Include service opportunities

Lay group – Volunteer coordinators
 Easier outreach opportunities
 Educate about opportunities

Concerts in park
 Christmas carols

Grace church walk
VCU community
Puts GHTC on map
Gospel Ebenezer

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

On Calendar with city – signature event – coordinate strong volunteer leadership
Strong clergy youth leadership – metrics - enthusiasm
Sunday School afterthought

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

Music program → outside
Better communication of opportunities
Too many services?
8:45 was successful

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

Clergy engagement Christian Ed – focused commitment on programming
Signature event – in park – fun event, music games fun attract families

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

Outside ? visible
Signature event organizers
Partner w/ Ebenezer's choir for events in Park

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?

Flamingos/Flocking

Table 9

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

- 1) More deacons or people called to ordained to ministry leadership
- 2) Touching the younger generation:
How do we, as a community of faith connect
- 3) Virtual/video conference
- 4) Sharing stories of connection

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

- Care about each other (personal) and the world
- 1) Connection to each other

2) Connection to the community

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

Community – Dental Mission, Red Door, Circles RVA

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

Connect children – Creating experiences for youth/families – and doing something of value in the community

- 1 X per Quarter

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

- Virtual Bible study

Other things that may need to be considered?

8:45 11 a.m. combine

Table 10

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Hopes + Dreams:

- Continuation of music program/dedication to it / makes the church special
- Re-energizing the children's program – families of faith value children's spiritual growth + they will seek these opportunities for their families
- Enhance the openness + support of those in need

What might it be doing differently:

- Decrease the “formality” of dress to open up the services to the “next generation” – make it easier and more accessible
- Using service/outreach ministries to attract new individual to the church
 - People seek community and then find GOD
- Partner w/ other churches – don't go it alone

Top Vision:

Integrate into the community around us to assure sustainability of the Parish (Needs assessment)
Change management – put GHTC in a position of strength (actively controlling our direction) vs. pressure victimhood (this is happening to us)

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

- ⇒ Identify community – Park, VCU, Cathedral, Altria
 - ↳ We are invisible amongst the large operations around us

- ↳ Find ways to serve other organization's problems, to solve our own
- ↳ Expand the church's role outside of "church"

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

- ⇒ Red Door/VCU partnership
- ⇒ Sunday breakfast
- ⇒ Enhancing Sunday school for kids
- ⇒ Forum/Sunday Education for adults (i.e. Biddle, his students)

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

- ⇒ Outside speakers for enrichment activities - (not only on Sundays) that can promote our visibility in the community (e.g. Eyes on Richmond or Lenten lunches - St. Paul's) or services starts at 11, but music starts at 10:30 – are we allowing people to fully engage in activities

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

- ⇒ Collaborations w/ other organizations
- ⇒ Website flow/navigation is difficult at present
- ⇒ Additional outreach to members not currently actively volunteering

What among these needs is currently available, and what needs to be acquired?
Needs assessment of the community around us to better guide direction

Other things that may need to be considered?

Life is busy + complicated, finding time to do what needs to be done is tough. The "noise" will continue and increase cutting through it will be critical

Table 11

Where do you see Grace and Holy Trinity Church in five years? What are your hopes and dreams for it? How might it look different? What might it be doing differently?

Hopes + Dreams for GHTC

- ⇒ More people to become members
- ⇒ More diversity
- ⇒ Safe, nurturing environment for ALL
- ⇒ Greenspace
- ⇒ Shepard (sic) of our GHTC flock to be a "glove fit"
- ⇒ Seamless integration with VCU. A melding of those in GHTC/VCU community
- ⇒ No parking issues (smiley face)
- ⇒ Utilizing our space to its fullest (Rams in Recovery)
- ⇒ Working together in peace + harmony for the good of the group (GHTC)

⇒ Ease of access to the flow of Episcopal service, especially for visitors.

What concrete actions might the parish begin making now to take steps toward the five year hopes and dreams?

Open our hearts + our minds!

If nothing changes, nothing changes!

Begin discussions now about who we may want to engage with our community as far as under utilized space. (Rams in Recovery, VDU Dental, those living in poverty.)

Be KIND (to each other, our visitors, our possible future members.)

What are others doing? Secret Shop!

⇒ Review the needs of our bldg. now (leaks windows, doors, paint) Needs Assessment

What activities are going on now that could help grow into this dream?

Building + Ground contact w/in the vestry.

Great discussion now about change and not being fearful or scared. Ongoing dialogue with access to all.

Outreach with VCU Dental, Campus Ministry, Children's Choir, Salsa(?)

Tailored communication to explain and promote what we do and why we do it. With warmth and love.

What activities, that are not going on now, would need to be started, in order to grow into this dream?

Targeted outreach to the community

Targeted outreach to our current members who aren't coming to church – no pressure, not a hard sell, just no (know?) you're loved, and thought of.

Realistic, frank discussions about what our efforts will cost and where the money will come from to do the work we do.

What is needed to carry out this dream in terms of additional buildings, activities, technologies, kinds and ages and numbers of people within the church, or interactions beyond the church?

Sober living house for those in need.

Rental property or investment property for showers for Red Door and Circles guests if warm shower, etc. are needed.