

A church engaged...
A community healed...
A world transformed

Home Moravian Church

Ephesians 2: 8-10: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God---not the result of works so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

HOME IS...

a vision for

Home Moravian Church

INTRODUCTION

The “Home Is...” Visioning Team has listened faithfully to congregational input and gathered information through meetings, presentations and discussions. Much of the information collected is available on the Home Church website, and we strongly encourage each member to review that information.

What the Visioning Team heard and now recommends focuses on spiritual and relational aspects of the life we share in Christ and opens the door for new program initiatives.

We additionally heard strong affirmation for the continuing relevance and vitality of Home Church’s existing Mission Statement:

“Fulfilling Christ’s call to love God, to live in community, and serve our neighbor”.

THE VISIONING TEAM HEARD HOME CHURCH SAYING

1. HOME IS...VITALIZING WORSHIP. Worship is beloved by our congregation and is an indispensable ingredient in our life together.

2. HOME IS...DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD. We long for ongoing spiritual renewal.

3. HOME IS...DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER. We want to know each other better.

4. HOME IS...DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE BEYOND OUR DOORS. We desire meaningful relationships with our neighbors near and far.

5. HOME IS...SERVICE. We are called to serve with love, compassion and respect.

VISIONING TEAM REFLECTIONS

VITALIZING WORSHIP: Worship feeds us, strengthens us, comforts us, challenges us, and binds us together through liturgy, prayer, the spoken Word, preaching, affirmation of our shared ministries, the offering, and the meaning found in music. Worship connects us to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit and provides the guidance and spiritual growth needed to achieve our commitment to love God and our neighbors.

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD: We seek a deeper relationship with God. We long for renewal as individuals and as a community through an enhanced focus on spiritual formation leading toward greater transformation, healing, and more holistic (spiritual, mental, emotional and physical) ministries.

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER: Participation in visioning meetings and luncheons demonstrated eagerness for time in each other's presence. We are called to engage in deeper, transformative, bold conversations that build trust and purpose for working together and respecting our differences. We desire stronger connections to God and others through small group experiences and new ways of being and worshiping together.

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE BEYOND OUR DOORS: We are called to conversation and substantive, respectful dialogue with the wider community.

SERVICE - We recognize we have so much more to learn about our community in order to be better neighbors in the name of Christ. Consistent with the Ground of the Unity and the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, we desire new, more impactful forms of engagement in the community.

VISION STATEMENT

**A church engaged,
a community healed,
a world transformed**

- **Engagement:** We seek ever-deepening and strengthening relationships with God, our congregation, our neighbors and our community
- **Healing:** We seek promotion of spiritual, mental and physical health for individuals and the binding of wounds and restoration of wholeness within creation, society, nation and world
- **Transformation:** We seek redemption, renewal and revitalization of our lives and the lives of those we serve in Christ

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that the church promote “Engaging, Healing and Transforming” as a framework for guiding the establishment, execution and evaluation of our ministries and activities.
2. We recommend that Home Church unleash its potential by empowering individuals and small groups to develop and implement bold, innovative ministry initiatives.
3. We recommend the creation of new spiritual growth opportunities.
4. We recommend intentional self-assessment of all ministries, using an “Action-Reflection” model (*see pages 11-12.*)
5. We recommend that the pastoral staff, core committees and ministry teams reflect at least annually on the list of assets developed in February 2019 as a resource for current and developing ministries (*available on the Home Church website*).
6. We recommend that the Board of Elders create a team, accountable to the board, to implement these recommendations and to oversee, nurture and ensure self-evaluation of each ministry initiative.

Ideas Gathered During Congregational Meetings and Exercises

NEW MINISTRIES: *Identify ways to create, develop, and improve opportunities for ministry networking -- ways of connecting members with similar interests.*

This action may include developing “navigators”, who will help shepherd new ideas. How can a small number of people connect on a potential new ministry, with a minimum of bureaucracy?

A framework for “seed-growing” of outreach/missional activities would be helpful.

This networking may include using social media, a real and/or virtual bulletin board where people can connect on new ideas and interests.

Offer alternative congregational worship experiences quarterly in 2020.

Question for Reflection: Are there new ministries I feel called to explore?

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES: *Create small group ministries for spiritual growth, intentional care and faith outreach, including leadership training.*

Passionate Engagement: Support engagement in new ministries grounded in the passions of individuals and small groups.

Discussions: Engage with each other in learning and deep discernment around issues about which we are passionate and deeply concerned, including “hard conversations”

Living Faith: Create small group experiences using the Living Faith program (Moravian Board of Cooperative Ministries)

Alternative Worship: Develop regular alternative worship opportunities (walking worship, holistic ministries, dinner church, local school campus gatherings and worship in different spaces...).

Interest Groups: Develop opportunities for interest groups.

Fellowship Groups: Develop/support gender-inclusive fellowship groups.

Worship/Fellowship: Repurpose or “stretch” the 11:15 Sunday School hour in order to provide greater opportunity for member-to-member fellowship and small group discussions.

Networking: Strengthen and create more opportunities for networking among members for new, creative ministry ideas for ministry development (for example: real/virtual bulletin board, etc.).

Quarterly congregational meals: Hold monthly/quarterly potluck or church-sponsored meals after church.

Question for Reflection: How could connection with a small group transform my faith experience?

WIDER COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: *Build relationships and ministry in our immediate neighborhood and our larger community; engage vibrantly in the worldwide ministry of the Moravian Church.*

Church's Footprint: Enhance the presence of the church in Old Salem and beyond.

Our Neighbors: Identify, contact and engage community neighborhoods, and select/implement cooperative actions.

New Ministries: Support small ministry "experiments", opportunities to try/test a potential calling for a new ministry activity.

Family Development: Support collaborative investment in children in families (Shalom project, nearby schools, etc.).

Anti-Poverty: Proactively address child poverty, hunger and displacement.

Partner with Existing Projects: Tie in with community initiatives. Put resources to more outward-facing initiatives. Partner with the United Way on community poverty initiatives.

Training: Increase nurturing and training for deeper relationships with one another. Outline a process for building relationships internally and externally, for learning and addressing challenges.

Anti-Racism: Educate ourselves about racism, and address realities of racism in Winston-Salem.

Invest Differently: Use benevolence/outreach funds as grants for individuals, agencies, businesses, new/emerging ministries in 27101, West Salem, East Winston, and invest in people and small groups with an entrepreneurial spirit -- seeing outreach as another way of investment.

Youth Leadership Development: Consider leadership / internship training for students and young adults (HMC youth and youth at nearby schools).

Discover Community Needs: Support ongoing intentional education on community needs.

Respect All: Ensure that our planning and actions are grounded in knowledge about, agreement from and participation with those whom we seek to serve in order that we avoid the arrogance of paternalism.

Question for Reflection: In what new or additional ways do I see our church community continuing to be the hands of Christ?

Action-Reflection in Ministry *(See recommendation #)*

Using an “Action Reflection” model in ministry is a spiritual practice that encourages self-reflection and supports evaluation of participation in ministry as an individual or as a group.

The following exercises are easily adaptable for use by individuals or groups. They are designed to increase awareness of feelings and experiences with the hope of aligning our intentions and decisions with the presence of God. These exercises are not an exact formula for reflection---feel free to follow along or deviate from the steps below, as needed. Trust that your deepest desires for faith, love, and hope are the evidence of God’s Spirit at work in you.

Before you begin your ministry:

1. Briefly pause for silent reflection.
2. Pray for God to bless the work that you are about to do.
3. Tell God what you hope to accomplish.
4. Express your intention to notice what God wants to show you.

At the conclusion of your ministry:

1. Briefly pause for silent reflection.
2. Consider one or two of the following questions. Your answers may be very specific or perhaps a word, a gesture, or a feeling:

Where did I notice God? Where did I feel empty or distracted?

When was I energized? When did I lack motivation?

Who am I grateful for today? Was there anyone that I struggled to relate to?

Was there anything that I would have done differently?

Continued Action-Reflection

What happened that I hope to build upon for next time?

How am I deepening relationships with God, one another, and the wider community?

3. Spend a moment reflecting on any stated goals or outcomes. Do they need to change?

4. Remember the vision statement: “a church engaged, a community healed, a world transformed.” What do these words mean to me today?

5. Close with prayer for yourself and the people in your ministry.

Questions for Reflection: What ministries am I currently involved in? How might taking time for Action-Reflection before and after a ministry experience affect those ministries or my perspective?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR ONGOING REFLECTION

How am I---or how might I become---part of “a church engaged, a community healed, a world transformed”?

How is God calling me? To what is God calling me?

Prayer

Gracious and Loving God,

You are always at work in the world. With every sunrise, you shine light on your beautiful creation. We give you thanks for colorful flowers, for rain and snow showers, and for every creature great and small.

Lord, you are always at work in our church. In every moment of worship, fellowship, mission, and play, you are there. We give you thanks for our beloved Home Moravian congregation and how you call us into community to share your love with others.

God, you are always at work in us. You equip and enable us to do wonderful things in your name. We give you thanks for the many gifts you entrust to us and for your hand always in ours.

Lord, we know you hear our prayers. We come together as a congregation to seek you and to discern how we can fulfill your vision for us of a church engaged, a community healed, and a world transformed.

Plant this vision in us, O God. Keep our eyes, ears, hands, and hearts open: open to listening, to understanding, to learning, to being willing to take risks and try new things as we work alongside and walk with one another in Your name.

May we be strengthened and united, knowing that as we seek to follow You, we are always embraced and held by the open arms and hands of Your son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



*“Fulfilling Christ’s call to love God, to live in community,
and serve our neighbor”.*