

Report from the Mission Planning Team

Approved by the Board on June 14, 2009

Our task was to develop a plan for our ministry together for the next two years, 2009-2010. We took into account the goals set for the congregation in 2007, as well as the many responses from the congregation-wide brainstorming session we held in March and April, 2009.

We began with the question, How will we KNOW? How will we live into our mission to know and love God, nurture each other, reach out, and welcome all people in the name of Christ? After many prayers and conversations, some struggle and much laughter (and several pizzas), we find ourselves at the end of our work.

We feel that our congregation is being called to live into our mission by:

- Offering worship opportunities that are meaningful and life-giving.
- Welcoming visitors in a way that helps them find a home here.
- Developing a small group ministry so that church members can grow closer in relationship with each other and with God.
- Communicating effectively with our membership and with our community, and becoming an active presence in our neighborhood.
- Using our financial resources wisely and encouraging generous giving beyond ourselves.
- Learning together through intentional Bible study and other educational opportunities.
- Reaching out through local and global mission projects, and continuing our support of involvement with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Making the best use of our staff and lay leadership resources.

What follows is a list of goals we suggest for the congregation to embrace as we move forward. We acknowledge that this is an ambitious and challenging plan, and much work will be needed by all. But we are also excited by the possibilities that lay before us, and we are inspired by the work the Holy Spirit is already doing in our midst.

May God bless our ministry together.
Faithfully submitted,

Mission Planning Team
Bill Inmon; Hannah Knibb; Vicki Simon; Harold Smith; Dawn Steadman; Neil Stewart; Emily Viverette; Mary Ann Younts; Lee Hull Moses

First Christian Church, Greensboro Goals for Ministry, 2009 - 2010

Worship Life

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue evaluation of and improvements to traditional format at 11:00. 	Worship Committee and Pastor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiment with format at 8:30 in conversation with regular attendees. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create small "Worship Team" to help enhance existing worship planning and explore alternative styles and times. 	

Welcoming Newcomers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Visitor Welcoming Team, whose work may include: Develop brochure just for visitors; continue quarterly Welcome Brunches; Provide nametags for all members; Improve information gathering process; Develop follow-up process; Assign a mentor/shepherd to new members; Train and organize greeters 	Congregational Enrichment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign front hallway to be more welcoming • Improve directional signs 	Property Committee, in conjunction with Congregational Enrichment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and improve nursery (and Sunday school) experience for new families 	Congregational Enrichment in conjunction with nursery staff and Christian Education

Small Group Ministry

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin 5 – 7 Life Groups, based around a variety of topics/interests. Encourage weekly gathering. Possible groups include: Community Garden; Prayer Shawl; Bible Study; Spirituality/Prayer; Mission; Fellowship 	Neil Stewart and an additional leader(s)
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Communication

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize member tracking software for finances and office 	Pastor, in conjunction with office staff and volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign newsletter 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve communication with congregation and community, which may include: Make best use of technological resources; Consistent logo/letterhead; Consult with a PR professional; Newspaper exposure; Brochures that describe our ministries; Banners/yard signs. 	

Local Outreach

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage full participation in 2009 Summer of Service to learn more about local opportunities 	Outreach Committee and others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue involvement in at least one new community organization 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue community garden 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue existing support of community organizations 	

Global Outreach

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become a "Global Missions Church" 	Outreach Committee and others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in an intergenerational mission trip for 2010 (somewhere outside Greensboro) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase congregational giving to Disciples Mission Fund 	

Community Presence

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Neighborhood Association to host event(s) for neighbors 	Pastor and Congregational Enrichment
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Disciples Connections

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage participation in General Assembly, Regional Transformational Conference, Regional Assembly, and Quaddrennial 	Pastor, CWF, CMF, Board, Christian Education Committee, many others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage continued participation in regional camps and conferences 	

Stewardship

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Capital Campaign (pending outcome of feasibility committee) 	Stewardship Committee, and others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide education about giving opportunities and church finances 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite representative from Christian Church Foundation to discuss planned giving 	

Education

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinvigorate Sunday School program (adults and children), which may include: Rotating topical classes; Classes focused on mission; Classes on parenting/marriage; Class for young adults 	Christian Education Committee and Pastor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make nursery/Sunday school more welcoming for new families 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide educational opportunities at varying days/times throughout the year 	

Staffing and Leadership

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider staffing needs to ensure we are staffed appropriately for mission and growth. 	Pastor, Board Officers, and Personnel Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate new bylaws and revise as needed Emphasize leadership development for lay leaders 	Board Officers with input from others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold "State of the Church" conversations to assess progress of goals. 	Mission Planning Team and Board Officers

First Christian Church of Greensboro

Our Mission is to Know and Love God, to Nurture Each Other, to Reach Out and Welcome All People in the Name of Jesus Christ.

www.fccgreensboro.org