Vision for First Presbyterian Church of York, PA

# FOLLOWING JESUS. EVERYWHERE.

### ...Into the Feast (Worship)

FPC Worship is diverse, engaging, interactive, and deeply grounded in Word and Sacrament. Together we celebrate the Risen Lord while acknowledging and embracing different worship styles, cultural experiences, and liturgical formats.

Potential key strategies/tactics include:

- Design creative and diverse worship experiences by establishing worship planning teams that provide a range of voices and input.
- □ Expand our worship offerings, including the addition of community-oriented and contemporary forms of worship.
- □ Provide hospitable, welcoming, flexible space for worship that supports additional worship offerings and a mix of worship experiences.
- □ Expand the use of technology in worship, including broader application of multi-media and creating the ability for virtual access to our worship experiences (e.g. streaming).
- Improve communication and signage to become more welcoming to visitors and new congregants.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD—be exultant before him. – Psalm 68:4

Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth! – 1 Chronicles:28-30

Day and night without ceasing they sing, "Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come." And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." - Revelation 4:8b-11

# ...Into the Sacred Story (Discipleship)

FPC is a Christ-centered community of children, youth, and adults who are actively seeking to grow in their faith individually and together for the sake of advancing the Kingdom of God.

Potential key strategies/tactics include:

- Develop a continuum of spiritual formation programming to shepherd/disciple FPC's congregation through all stages of life.
- Expand and encourage learning communities and small groups such that a strong majority of FPC members are actively involved in group relationships that are both ecumenical and spiritually based.
- □ Prioritize and revitalize youth ministry to such a degree that FPC's youth program is actively attracting non-members from our neighborhood and broader community.
- Initiate an active college ministry program that attracts a sizeable group on a routine basis (e.g., 50+ students regularly participating).
- □ Develop a virtual presence for FPC's Christian Educational offerings, including streaming capabilities and the establishment of virtual learning communities.
- Develop discipleship programming that equips and empowers FPC members for mission and advocacy (e.g., learning about poverty, etc.).
- □ Actively engage the local community in our discipleship efforts and programs, seeking to strengthen personal relationships with Christ for members and non-members alike.
- Determine and fund an appropriate staffing model to support these initiatives, both in the initial stages and as they develop/grow.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom - Colossians 3:16a

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. - Acts 2:42* 

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation . . . – Psalm 25:4-5a

# ...Into the Neighborhood (Mission)

FPC is earning the trust of our neighbors through our Spirit-led focus on serving, empowering, and advancing advocacy for the benefit of God's most vulnerable families and individuals in our world.

Potential key strategies/tactics include:

- Aggressively build on the foundation of FPC's Caring Ministry to actively address economic and spiritual poverty in our community through Christ-centered literacy and life-skill programs that help to equip those in need, while creating meaningful relationships between FPC members and our local community.
- Increase our efforts to spread the Good News and address the significant level of global relief and development needs through support and partnership with international missionaries and missional organizations.
- □ Embrace and develop missional ministries that reflect God's calling, the passion of our members, and the needs of God's people.
- □ Effectively utilize FPC's physical space to actively support a range of local missional agencies and efforts (stewardship of our physical assets).
- Actively embrace our responsibility for advocacy by establishing FPC as a forum and facilitator of dialogue on social issues that impact our local, national and global community (e.g., promoting and hosting community forums, etc.).
- Determine and fund an appropriate staffing model to support these initiatives, both in the initial stages and as they develop/grow.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. - Luke 4:18-19

*Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. – Isaiah 1:17* 

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:34-40

# ...Into Shared Joy and Sorrow (Fellowship)

FPC is open to, and welcoming of, all God's children, valuing every individual's uniqueness while building a family that shares deep and significant Christ-centered relationships.

Potential key strategies/tactics include:

- Develop programs and fellowship communities that create a network of relationships to support FPC members in all life stages and circumstances.
- □ Expand recreational opportunities to enjoy and celebrate God's world together.
- □ Encourage and equip FPC members to support and walk alongside each other during life's trials and struggles.
- □ Intentionally welcome members of marginalized groups into community as fellow children of God.
- □ Create ministry teams to plan a continuous stream of relationship-building and fellowshippromoting activities.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. - Galatians 6:2

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. - John 13:34-35

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:27-28

# ...Into Everyday Conversations (Evangelism)

FPC is prepared and willing to share the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus, within the church as well as out in the world. We are intentional about encouraging and inviting others to share their stories of faith.

Potential key strategies/tactics include:

- □ Provide training that equips FPC members to confidently, articulately, and authentically share stories of their own faith journeys and of God's redemptive work in the world with others.
- Learn to recognize and strive to overcome the barriers that keep us from effectively communicating the Good News of Jesus. Cultivate the practice of deep and respectful listening, recognizing that Christ is already present among all those God is leading us to journey with.
  Speak the truth with humility and love, adapting to the context and language of our conversation partners.
- Increase the visibility of FPC's witness to Jesus Christ in the York community. Expand FPC's network of relationships so that we can share the love of God with more people through word and deed.
- Develop the discipline of carrying the Gospel into every part of our daily lives so that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we live as agents of God's love, hope, justice, and reconciliation in all of our actions, decisions, and relationships.

#### Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. - Acts 8:4

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . . - 1 Peter 3:15

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . - Matthew 28:19