

HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Our Purpose: To Share the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ with Our Community

Our Vision:

- We are a Community of Believers seeking to grow in our Personal Walk with Christ, to Serve Him and to Share the Good News of His Saving Grace with Others. Our Vision is of a Vibrant and Enthusiastic Body, ever growing in Personal Devotion, in Service to Others, and in making new Disciples for the Transformation of the World.

Envision – a Welcoming Community of Believers knowing we are all loved, praying for, supporting, and encouraging each other to be all that God created us to be.

Envision – a Growing Community of Believers that shares one another’s joys and burdens and is equipped and reaching out to others with the Good News of the Gospel.

Envision – a Committed Community of Believers engaged in Passionate Worship in a variety of styles, and serving the community and world through a variety of local, national and global missions.

Psalm 40:3: “He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.”

HUMC VISION – THE CORE ELEMENTS

#1. Personal Spiritual Growth

Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Serving others in the name of Christ requires steadfast commitment to growing in our personal relationship with Him. We seek to grow in our faith through passionate, biblically centered worship, extravagant generosity, faith development small groups, Bible study and personal and shared prayer.

Near Term (2012 – 2013)

- Prayer begins and ends every activity at HUMC.
- Biblically centered teaching is provided at all age levels.
- Initiate Small Group Ministry under the leadership of a volunteer coordinator.
- Develop plan to teach all ages that the joy and importance of financial giving enhances our faith walk.
- Regular participation in worship is increasing.
- Continue support that will allow our music ministry to remain vital and expanding for all ages and styles.

Mid Term (2014 – 2016)

- Participation in small groups, meeting throughout the week, reaches 30% of membership
- Weekly worship attendance rises to 40% of membership.
- Growth toward a tithe is well understood and accepted as an important part of a faith walk.

- As responsibilities are defined and the structure and format of our worship requires, the position of Worship Leader should be added to the HUMC staff.
- As needs grow, expand the role of the Director of Education position to be full time Intentional Faith Development Director, which includes Small Group Coordination.

Long Term (2017 – 2020)

- A new multi-purpose facility on the former Odd Fellows property enables transition of the Sunday morning schedule to one with a Sunday School / small group time for all ages (at approximately 9:45) between worship services by providing space for simultaneous contemporary and traditional services (with staggered starts) at approximately 11:00.
- Weekly worship and small group participation both exceed 50% of membership.
- The commitment of each member of Hockessin United Methodist Church to personal spiritual growth is recognized, encouraged and celebrated as we experience together the

joy of passionate worship and the growth that comes through small groups and growth toward tithing.

#2. Connections – Our Church Community

Romans: 15:7: “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” & 12:13: “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

We welcome all people in Christian love, seeking to create and nurture vital personal relationships. Through prayer, ministry, service and personal openness, we seek to bring the joy of Christ to one another and even more to those we have not yet met and who may not be in relationship with Him.

Near Term (2012 – 2013)

- Continue current welcoming and hospitality practices for greeting, welcoming, and inviting all to joyful worship.
- Provide follow-up with new members to assist in assimilation into the life of the church.
- Increase follow-up with members not attending for a period of time to be sure needs are being met.
- Continue current programs for personal support such as Stephen Ministry, GriefShare, and Financial Management.
- Continue to seek ways to minister to and to provide visibility and leadership opportunities for Youth
- Institute a process/procedure to ensure timely and active contact/follow-up with **all** church members who offer to serve by filling out a ministry menu

Mid Term (2014 – 2016)

- Institute new personal support programs along the lines of Stephen Ministry, GriefShare, etc., as needs are identified.
- Evaluate opportunity for young singles ministry in Hockessin area, including exploration of possible combined ministry with another area church.
- Evaluate, & implement if recommended having Sunday School classes attend 9:45 worship on rotating basis.
- As opportunity permits, expand Youth Director position to full time.

Long Term (2017 – 2020)

- Worship services are structured to be welcoming to children (3rd grade and up) and youth. Programmed child care is available for younger ages.
- If Mid Term evaluation so recommends, young singles ministry is implemented.
- Youth Director is full time.
- **Hockessin United Methodist Church is a warm and welcoming sanctuary, providing support to one another and open hearts and hands to all age groups and to all those with whom we come in contact. We continually seek new ways to meet people’s needs, both current congregants and new visitors or attendees.**

#3. Reaching Out to Others

Matthew 28:19: “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.” & 25:40: “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Every person involved at Hockessin United Methodist Church is challenged to use our time, unique gifts and talent in Christ-centered mission and service.

Near Term (2012 – 2013)

- Continue to support existing programs of service and outreach to the community such as Clothes Closet, Family Promise, Angel Tree, ASP, ELC, etc.
- Develop training for sharing of our faith and being invitational.
- Evaluate identification of prioritized unfunded ministries as a way to show how greater giving would expand ministry of the church.

Mid Term (2014 – 2016)

- Implement training in sharing one’s faith and in being invitational for at least 25% of members.
- Increased growth toward tithing resulting from work under Core Element #1, provides opportunity both to grow in service to others and to fund personnel and facilities needs for growth.
- Identify opportunities, both in ministries and in administrative functions (such as budgeting, finance, administration, etc.), to share or exchange talents and skills with other local United Methodist churches to increase total outreach to make new disciples and serve.

Long Term (2017 – 2020)

- Training in sharing one’s faith with others is an accepted and integral part of membership at Hockessin United Methodist Church.
- **Christ-centered mission and service continues to be a central focus for the church, with a variety of types of opportunities available locally at HUMC, in the greater area through work with other churches, and nationally and internationally through United Methodist organizations such as Volunteers in Mission and UMCOR or through other outside agencies. Receptiveness remains high to new opportunities for mission as individuals or groups identify and come forward to champion initiatives.**

#4. Servant Leadership

Romans 12:6-8: “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” Colossians 3:23-24: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,…”

Leadership of Hockessin United Methodist Church in fulfilling our Mission and Purpose is the shared responsibility of all members, pastors, and staff. All are challenged to be ever growing in their spiritual formation, and to seek opportunities to witness to others as we serve as servant leaders for the Community of Believers.

Near Term (2012 – 2013)

- Cluster and standing committee leadership roles include responsibility to advocate and provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of cluster and committee members.
- Publicize Operating Covenants of each cluster, standing committee, and ministry and mission group. Where not yet in place, develop operating covenants to be reviewed and approved by Council.
- Define standard “term of office” for each cluster leader position. (3 years typical & default absent other decision.)
- Develop ministry “operational guides” to facilitate training and leadership transfer of Clusters and ministries.
- Define training as a key part of Cluster and Ministry leadership positions.
- Add a (lay) training coordinator position to Council and to the Lay Leadership Committee. These positions will work with members of the groups and with potential new leaders to enhance role definition, identify gifts and graces needed, and assist in smooth transfer of responsibilities.
- Expand new member orientation to include United Methodist history and core beliefs, an overview of the small group ministry approach, and more on Hockessin UMC lay organization and leadership.
- Develop a list of core programs of study / training recommended for all members.
- Develop a plan for training of individuals willing to serve in leadership positions.

Mid Term (2014 – 2016)

- Implement core programs of study for members and laity willing to serve as leaders.
- Implement cluster leader understudy positions in final year of term of office so that transfer of leadership is timely and expands lay participation in leadership.
- Increase pastoral focus on intentional faith development and on development of lay leadership vs. direct performing of tasks more appropriately accomplished by laity.

Long Term (2017 – 2020)

- **Hockessin United Methodist Church leadership is characterized by a culture of training and development of an extensive group of servant leaders who carry out the Mission and Purpose of the church collaboratively with inspired guidance and specialized skill leadership from the Pastors and staff. Lay Leadership roles are well understood and influential in encouraging more individuals to develop the knowledge, skills and commitment to undertake a leadership position.**

#5. Our Space for Worship and Service

Psalm 15:1-2: "Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? ... He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness and speaks the truth from his heart." I Kings 6:12-13: "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to ... your father."

As we grow in spirit and in numbers, we must evaluate and continually improve our facilities to provide a safe, growing environment for people to encounter God in our changing community and world.

Near Term (2012 – 2013)

- Assess needs for upgrades to existing property and buildings, especially the existing sanctuary to enable more variety of worship and musical format.
- Develop plans and cost estimates for a new building and improvements to the former Odd Fellows property and current property to meet the needs for worship (300+), Odd Fellows meetings, HUMC ministries and social activities, and additional parking.
- Seek congregational input and support for facilities modifications.
- Complete a comprehensive facilities plan to implement the improvements and modifications identified to enhance HUMC facilities. Define strategy and tactics to raise the funds to support this plan and begin execution.

Mid Term (2014 – 2016)

- With the approval of the HUMC congregation, complete planning and begin construction of the property and facilities to implement the comprehensive facilities plan.

Long Term (2017 – 2020)

- All facilities are welcoming, provide the space needed for passionate worship and service, and are utilized extensively for the advancement of the kingdom of God.