

## Summary of First Two Holy Conversations

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry appreciate the congregations' commitment to our visioning and discernment process. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our last conversation in our listening, sharing and insights. We continued our conversation reviewing the **formation questions** that we have been asked to ponder:

- Who are we? (Identity)
  - Legacy
  - Values / Aspirations
- What are we here for? (Purpose)
  - Five Marks of Mission
- "Who is our neighbor? What is our context?" (Needs, Demographics)
  - What are the needs of our community, our church (Needs)
  - What practicalities do we need to consider? (Time, Culture, Resources)
- What do we have?
  - What are our gifts? (People, Facilities, Finances)
  - What do we love to do?
- "What do we want to see at St. Luke's in 3-5 years?" (Dreaming)

We reviewed the following lists of needs and gifts that we generated in the first meeting (see below).

We then spent time discussing our core values and legacy. Regarding our legacy we named the gifts we had received from those who had come before us. We pondered what we would like to add to the legacy for those who come after us and identified the things we had received that we might not want to pass on to future generations. Interestingly, the legacy gift that we had received and want to pass on that emerged was the "courage to evolve." At the end of the letter you will find a summary of all these conversations. We discussed the expected growth in East Woodland and talked about the importance of having a presence in that area. Next we reviewed the church's financial and facility assets. We discussed the church's financial position, vision for facilities and desire to develop alternate revenue streams in order to assure continued financial sustainability (detailed in the Holy Conversation Booklet). Starting with a period of prayerful silence and listening, we spent the second half of the meeting considering all the information and conversations that had been discussed in the first two meetings. Our facilitator asked the following questions:

- What did you experience during the silence that you can put into words?
- What has God shown you?
- What insights have you received since beginning this process?
- What have you experienced in these gatherings or at St. Luke's that excites you?
- Have you seen a thread that connects any of what you have experienced? Where does that thread lead?
- Where do you hear the ring of truth; what is of God? What common themes emerge?

Through listening, writing, small group conversations and sharing, we identified several significant insights (Below).

## **Results Holy Conversations To Date**

### **Core Values (Who Are We?)**

In order to fully live in to our potential we will strive to:

- Provide a welcoming sanctuary for all
- Prioritize being and staying in relationship with each other
- Nurture the next generation
- Weave our relationship with God into the fabric of our daily lives
- Engage the world around us
- Speak / Be truth in love
- Honor our legacy and traditions

### **Legacy Gifts We Have Received (Who Are We?)**

- Courage to Evolve (37)
- Financial Stability (11)
- Book Common Prayer and Hymnal 1982 (7)
- Energy (4)
- Facilities (9)
- Spiritual Grounding (13)
- Reason (5)
- Community Resource / Place to meet (9)
- Preschool (7)
- Self-awareness (5)

### **What We Want To Add To The Legacy We Want To Leave (Who Are We?)**

- Courage to evolve (37)
- Appreciation of our history and role in the community (12)
- Awareness of Wider Church (7)
- Openness (12)
- Community Outreach (15)
- Youth Ministry (11)
- Safe Place Try and Fail (9)
- Caring for our elders (7)

### **Parts Of Our Legacy That We Do Not Want To Pass On (Who Are We?)**

- Bigotry and prejudice
- Cultural Stereotyping
- Superiority with regard to our religion
- Underutilized facilities
- Non-ADA compliant facilities

## **Five Marks of Mission / Reign of Shalom (What Are We Here For? What's Our Purpose For Existing?)**

The Five Marks of Mission can serve as guideposts to help us align our ministries and activities with God's mission for the world: the overflowing of God's love to reconcile the world and the restoration of Shalom - a world of feasting, abundance, justice, dignity, celebration, prosperity, harmony, unity and respect for all.

### ***Five Marks of Mission established by the Anglican Consultative Council.***

1. Proclaim the Good News
2. Teach, Baptize, Nurture
3. Respond to need by loving service
4. Seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

### **Needs Around Us (What is our context?)**

- Homelessness
- Racial Reconciliation
- Children and Youth Concerns and Needs
- Spiritual Home / Center for Community

### **Demographics (Who is our neighbor?)**

- Healthy and vital churches reflect the demographics of their community.
- Woodland is growing rapidly and that growth is projected to continue over the next 5 years.
- Healthy Churches grow when their community grows?
- What can we do to connect and be visible to those moving into our community?
- What are people new to Woodland looking for?
- How do we connect with:
  - Families living east of 113?
  - Hispanics and Latinos?
  - Younger families?

### **Gifts (What do we have to offer) ?**

- Desire to be inclusive and welcoming
- Music and Liturgy
- Facilities
- Ability to discuss challenging topics
- Interfaith and ecumenical relationships
- Preschool relationship
- Historic –part of the Fabric of woodland / Legacy
- Connection to land
- Desire to turn outward and build bridges to community
- Prayer Ministries

### **Dreaming (What do we want to see at St. Luke's in 3-5 years?)**

#### **Insights:**

- Our future has many possibilities.
- We have a diversity of ideas.

- Grace is present in our midst.
- Whatever we do, we need to all be on the same page.
- Does it help or hurt to refer to our church as a family?
- On-going spiritual formation for all ages is important.
- We need to intentionally bridge gaps between age groups, other cultures and groups inside the church and in the wider community.
- Creative finances are important.

## Summary of Third Conversation

- **Who are we? (Identity) or Who do we want to be?**  
An Episcopal faith community committed to taking faithful risks to foster community and proclaim God's love through our words, deeds and relationships.
- **What are we here for? (Purpose)**  
Foster Community  
Build Bridges
- **Who is our neighbor?**  
People with needs we can meet  
Everyone on the planet (through prayer)  
People who with whom we are in relationship  
Each Other
- **What is our context?**  
We live in time of unidentified spiritual hunger.  
There is widening inequality.  
There is despair and overwhelm.  
There is an urgency to address issues of inequality and systemic racism and misogyny.  
We are a progressive church in a community of more conservative churches.  
The wider community's perception of St. Luke's may be out of date.  
We are called to proclaim God's love to a community in which many are un-churched or have been wounded by the church.  
Woodland is divided not only by race but by traditional historic neighborhoods and new developments.
- **What do we have?**  
Willingness to build bridges  
Episcopal Liturgy and tradition  
People with diverse life experiences  
Facilities to share  
Culture of truth-telling  
Strong Leadership
- **Overarching Themes**  
God's love is central to our understanding of our mission and ourselves  
We desire to foster community both within our congregation and in the community our walls.  
We value our Episcopal liturgy and tradition: beauty, liturgy, tradition, scripture, reason.  
We desire to collaborate with other community and faith groups and build bridges that connect us with marginalized groups.

An Episcopal faith community committed to taking faithful risks to foster community and proclaim God's love through our words, deeds and relationships.

These initiatives were suggested as part of our Holy Conversation activities. Help us prioritize the initiatives by sharing your support and ideas. Please mark the ministries and initiative that excite you and to which you would be willing to commit time and resources.

		Participate	Lead or Support	On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 4 (Yes! How can I help?) How important is this to you?
<b>Eucharistic Visitors and Lay Pastoral Care</b>				
<b>Support for enhance communication</b>	Website, newsletters, calendar			
<b>Formation</b>				
	Children			
	Parents			
	Family			
	Adults			
	Youth			
	Seniors			
<b>Adult Formation</b>				
	Spiritual Practices			
	Bible Study			
	Living the gospel in the world			
	Being Episcopalian			
	Skills to listen, speak openly and stay in relationship			
	How to intentionally cultivate diversity in our Congregation			
	Liturgy			
	Church History			
	Theology			
<b>Youth Activities</b>				
<b>Small Group Ministries</b>	Art Ministry			
	Women's Spirituality			
	Welcoming Ministry			
	LGBTQ and Allies Ministry			
<b>Welcome Table and Weekly Hosts</b>				

		<b>On a scale of 1 (Not at all) to 4 (Yes! How can I help?) How important is this to you?</b>
<b>Collaboration with Woodland Ecumenical Ministries</b>		
<b>Well Organized Coffee Hour with Full Participation</b>		
<b>Host Community Forums</b>		
<b>Artist in Residence</b>		
<b>Welcoming Sanctuary For All</b>		
<b>Financial Sustainability</b>		
	Develop Facilities	
	Market facilities as event venues	
	Signature fundraiser to support mission initiatives	
<b>Homeless Ministry</b>		
	Support development of tiny house village	
	Market facilities as event venues	
	Kitchen incubator	
	Community Center	
	After School Enrichment Program	
	Transitional Housing (family forward)	
<b>Racial Reconciliation Work</b>		
<b>Host candle light vigils for church and world</b>		
<b>Alternative Service</b>		
	Less formal, kid friendly, more music, different time	
	Taize	
	Healing Service	
	Morning or Evening Prayer	
<b>Progressive Fellowship Dinners</b>		
<b>Further development of choir and music program</b>		
	Musicians and soloists	
	Better Piano	
	Girls and Boys Choir	
<b>Facilities</b>		
	Welcoming and ADA Compliant	
	Complete renovations and upgrades so facilities potential can be maximized	
	Convert Great hall to multi-purpose facility	
	Better Signage	
	Enhanced Sound System for Hearing Impaired	

