

Light of Christ

Vision Conversation Groups

Ministry Initiatives

Background:

We have spent much of this year listening, praying, deliberating, and considering how Light of Christ might best step into the next few years of ministry together. There are many ways to go, potential goals to set, priorities to pursue. And yet we sense that the Holy Spirit has revealed some important things for us to focus upon.

As a church family we seek your input and reflections on two main areas: Ministry Initiatives ideas (that will give shape for the next 3 years); and Facilities Opportunities (a variety of things that can help our church continue to be a place for mission and community).

Vision Conversation Groups

One hour guided sessions designed to facilitate learning, conversation, and feedback on our two main areas under consideration. A video introduction is available featuring Pastor Bruce and Tim Johnson, our Shared Ministry Coordinator and Kairos consultant.

MINISTRY INITIATIVES

Deepening Our Connections – The Christian life is all about relationships. Our relationship with God, with one another, both interpersonally and as a community. Following the pandemic and the way in which it has tended to pull us apart, we will prioritize reconnecting with one another and with God. Identifying and hosting large fellowship events or gatherings. Small group opportunities to connect and to share faith and our life journeys. Attention to different age or life-stage groups: seniors, couples, etc.

What do you think? What is your sense about what might be most important? How might you want to be involved?

Growing in Healing/Wholeness – Our new ministry team has made strides in this area over the past 2-3 years. And yet we have growing opportunities to help improve our mental and emotional health and well-being. Exploring and finding health and wholeness through our faith and our relationships and sharing our journeys together, we will experience increased hope and joy in life.

What do you think? What is your sense about what might be most important? How might you want to be involved?

Expanding our Invitation, Welcome & Hospitality. Delano continues to grow, and we believe know the importance of intentionally reaching out with a warm invitation to all. In fact, we take seriously that God welcomes and loves all people, no matter their place in life, into a fellowship of faith and

community. Many are lonely; others have questions and yearnings; others are looking for a place to belong.

What do you think? What is your sense about what might be most important? How might you want to be involved?

Being a Hybrid Community – Increasingly, people connect with our church in a variety of ways. Online streaming worship services have been key for many members. Others have been able to connect with ministry team meetings and studies via Zoom. Many access sermons, devotionals, and more on our website. We have a YouTube channel that offers ways to connect with ministry. But we're not done. There is more to do. Developing a church app, live-streaming more events or classes via Facebook Live, and other initiatives will help us connect with as many as possible. Being a Hybrid Community isn't to be just an array of connection options but an expression of who we are as a faith community.

What do you think? What is your sense about what might be most important? How might you want to be involved?

Creation Care – Being stewards or managers of what God has entrusted to us is a central tenet of our faith. While we have traditionally thought about stewardship as having to do with our time, talents and treasure, it is most certainly *everything* that God has created and offered to us for life. This initiative would be to assess and improve our environment impact. Energy efficiency, recycling, various business practices. We believe that a deliberate pursuit of being more environmentally conscious and environmentally responsible would fulfill a central part of our responsibility to care for God's good creation.

What do you think? What is your sense about what might be most important? How might you want to be involved?

Be sure to rank these in order of your sense of importance, on the Response Form

And...

Be sure to rank the Facilities Options in order of importance, as well. These are shared through a PowerPoint. The same Response Form provides space for your input.

Thank you!

The Vision Team

Vision Conversation Group

Discussion Outline

Generally, plan on one hour for the group conversation. This means you will need to move right along. It's a good bit to cover together.

Resources:

Two-page Ministry Initiatives document (front/back)

Vision Ideas Response Form

TV/Computer to show the Vision Conversation Group YouTube video (the longer of the two)

Strategy:

Welcome everyone. Share names. Offer a brief prayer:

O Lord, we thank you for your church. We thank you for the ministry you have given us to be about. And we thank you for opportunities to consider together how best to share your Good News and your love with others. We ask that you bless our conversation so that we might understand more deeply the importance of these ministries and how to invest our energies and resources in the months and years ahead. In your name, Amen.

Read out loud the Background paragraph on the first page. Then invite participants to use the rest of the that document while you play the YouTube of Pastor Bruce and Tim Johnson (the longer of the two videos that are posted).

Ask, "Which one of these Ministry Initiatives most caught your attention? Why? What might it look like to put this Initiative into action?"

Which other ones were meaningful to you? Why? How might they be put into action?

Simply allow for open conversation/input

Jot down any notes/input which you can share with the Vision Team

Ask members to fill out the 1st portion of the Response Form

Show the Facilities Options slide show, using the narration notes as you go through each slide. Go slowly. Allow for comments or question.

Ask, "What most caught your attention?" Which seemed most needful? Do any of these create questions for you? What sort of feedback would you like to provide?

Invite members to fill out the second portion of the Response Form

Thank everyone for attending. Extend an invitation to them to reach out to Vision Team members with any input or questions. Assure them that the VT will provide a summary of responses.