

### Part I - Our Church in 5 – 7 years?

- a. Dwindling numbers; people aging and moving
- b. Why do people come? Community, Comfort, Strength, Happiness
- c. What are strengths? Grandmother tree image (shelter from rain with a lot more life to give)
- d. What are opportunities for children/ families? Music/Drama
- e. Building: serve people as a library, office space, theater, community center, Congregant Living facility, etc.
- f. Many paths: pick one and started moving along path, birds singing, stepped in puddle, got lost, silver lining ended up find self on other path after all
- g. Positive, spiritual energy in the building; we have creative talent, have creative opportunity
- h. Compromise and coming together in community; opportunity of other people in Woodstock – not just families with children
- i. Outreach to people in the Community
- j. Not all gloom and doom: advertise/Share who we are and what we do. Ways to repurpose/Utilize facility
- k. Look at span of history and remain hopeful; Feel positive energy about church; we were in thin places in the past and church still has life
- l. We are blessed community of friends in Christ
- m. Grief and suffering – hold space
- n. Justice, kindness, walk humbly
- o. Building: great location, variety of spaces
- p. Become more of a community center; programs of the church and positive interactions that people get when they meet someone from the congregation
- q. Ministry of presence – Caring ministry; be present in the moments of life – we are good at that
- r. Image of church: Live loud – express what is happening inside outside
- s. Church without doors
- t. Doors blown open, e.g., worship on the lawn
- u. Arms of compassion; arms reaching out, e.g., community kitchen, loneliness
- v. Trees
- w. Hands interconnected and taking each other's hand (as in recent labyrinth exercise) and extending out into community: hand in hand – helping one another
- x. Let go of what was/past and trust; we are still awesome

## Vision Retreat June 9, 2024

### Notes

- y. God multiplies what we do, example/inspiration Indian Trail – image of Thomas Hooker guided by natives leading settlers on way to Hartford
- z. People have been faithful
- aa. Limited resources, assets, and energy; use efficiently and wisely
- bb. Joining hands with others (including other congregations)
- cc. Building use – free will offering
- dd. Peace will abide us. Love will guide us (Sally Rogers lyric)
- ee. History matters; Stewards of history and building
- ff. We matter to Community – our message of inclusion
- gg. Church helps us to grow, nudges us forward
- hh. World is yearning for Christ, something new is being born (Charles Kochenbroch)
- ii. Hub of intentional ministries; a resource
- jj. Children’s ministries
- kk. Happiness and joy of new beginning
- ll. Feeling of love and caring in our community
- mm. Two Pictures: Do what we are doing; or Be joyful on different path
- nn. Equip and inspire people to go our into community; we get inspiration to do that form church
- oo. People = church; church not = building; church = community

### **Part II - What are we doing in 2030? What got us there**

- a. ?? (Kathy Packard)
- b. ?? (Jennifer Duggan)
- c. Community Foundation (Susan McKechnie)
- d. Feeding the Soul (Christina Manuilow)

### Images/Vision referred to in comments

1. Grandmother Tree
2. The Building;
3. Paths; many, joyful
4. Energy; positive, spiritual, creative
5. Community of Friends in Christ
6. Center/hub/foundation of community
7. Ministry of Presence, holding space
8. Live Loud!
9. Blown open/removed Doors
10. Arms/hands open and interconnected
11. Pioneers (Indian trail)

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### Notes

12. Peace abide, love guide
13. Stewards of history and building
14. Equip and Inspire
15. Foundation
16. Feed Soul