



12.25.19 - Prescription #1 Team Update

Vision, Values and Structure

Our team has been meeting since October to work on defining the values and vision for our church. Our team members are: Chris Caraway, Vice-Chair, Jason Kelly, Bill Kistler, Megan Landers, Andrea Lawrence, Terry Morgan, Mandy Savage, and Bobbie Davis, Chair.

We were delighted when so many church members attended the Day of Visioning Workshop that was held on November 9 where we learned the value of visioning and the impact of vision within the church. Our speaker, Pastor Kate Walker, explained that the vision is HOW the congregation will accomplish our mission of “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. Our vision will be the clear and compelling statement of where God is leading us. Vision weaves four wonderful things into our experience: passion, motivation, direction, and purpose. Kate used a quote from Blanchard and Stoner “Vision is knowing who you are, where you are going, and what will guide your journey”. Kate led us in discussions that helped us define our mission fields. Some of the groups at the workshop expressed ideas for outreach to the homeless population, other groups wanted to be reaching out with more radical hospitality to people who visit our church, and some groups even suggested having more mission trips for youth and adults. One of the groups commented, “We need to investigate ways that everyone can contribute to the vision of how this mission field is served”.

After the visioning workshop, our team has been focusing on identifying the core values of our church. We have been interviewing members of the congregation to be able to articulate the core values of our church. If you have not been interviewed, and would like to contribute information to the committee on values or vision, please contact one of the committee members or call Bobbie Davis at 936.635.8046. It is important that the vision and values represent the uniqueness of FUMC Lufkin. We have asked God through the Holy Spirit to lead us so that we can determine what God desires to accomplish within and through our church in the next three years.

Each of the team members have read one of three books that were suggested by our VCI coaches and reported back to the group on some of the views from each author. The book, *God Dreams* by Will Mancini offers a series of templates that will assist our teams in determining what God wants for our church in the future. According to Mancini, “when we create vision we reflect God’s image. Our God is a visionary God. He can turn the worst dilemma into eternal victory”. We are to consider what God is doing through our church and to ask what he wants us to do in the future. Mancini urges us to rely on God and to think and pray BIG. He asks us to question “What has God set me free to do with my one life?”

In later First Look articles, our group will give reports on the other two books that we have read: *Visioneering* by Andy Stanley and *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. Both of these books offered guidance in establishing a vision for FUMC that is based on the uniqueness of our church and the core values of our

members. We ask that you join the VCI Prescription Team One, in praying for God to lead us to see His vision for our church.