

FOLLOW-UP TO EPIPHANY'S CONGREGATIONAL VISIONING MEETING

Held November 15, 2020

SUMMARY:

Thank you to all the 23 Epiphany members who participated in the November 15 congregational information meeting to discuss our congregation's proposed Vision Statement and Core Values. It was energizing to hear members' thoughtful feedback, insights and questions. The Visioning Committee has applied the information gathered on November 15 to refine the Vision Statement and Core Values. You'll find the updated Vision Statement, Core Values and their definitions below.

In response to some of the feedback, the Visioning Committee is sending this report to members via mail and email, depending on their preference. The presentation shared on November 15 is on the Epiphany website.

To ensure all Epiphany members have the same opportunity to participate in the visioning process, a committee will be formed to call those who may have missed the visioning survey and the November 15 meeting, giving them an opportunity to ask questions and share their viewpoints.

A 30-minute congregational information meeting will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2021 following Worship, to gather member input about the revised Vision Statement and Core Values.

UPDATED VISION STATEMENT:

Purpose of Vision, Mission and Values:

More than just a goal, a vision is the embodiment of Epiphany's hopes and dreams; the picture of what has not yet happened, but what the future may hold in five and ten years from now. A vision for Epiphany is important as we make decisions about how we will develop sustainable ministry models. The vision statement will provide a focal point for goal-setting and decision-making.

Vision Statement Presented on November 15:

A caring Christian community, working to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We nurture the community of Christ through prayer, worship and open engagement.

Vision Statement refined by the Visioning Committee, based on Nov. 15 feedback:

A caring and inclusive Christian community, working to make a difference through prayer, worship and open engagement.

How to assess the Vision Statement:

As Epiphany's vision comes to fruition over the coming years, it will impact the congregation and the community. In the Visioning survey which preceded the November 15 meeting, members defined what they feel those outcomes will be. As you think about the refined vision statement above, does it set the stage for the following outcomes?

- Being seen as a spiritual community;
- Becoming a more socially responsive, active participant in the community;
- A safe place for diverse groups; remaining inclusive;
- Offering online as well as in-person worship;
- Helping those less fortunate - the elderly, hungry and homeless;
- Becoming a safe and welcoming place for anyone to learn about and share God's love.

As well, the community within and outside of Epiphany will feel:

- Welcomed and that they belong;
- Safe as they explore their faith;
- Spiritually fed;
- Supported;
- Faithful;
- Energized;
- Secure.

Is the Vision Statement:

- Imaginable? Can you paint a picture in your mind of what the world will be like as the vision is attained?
- Inspirational? Does it address Epiphany's long-term interests?
- Feasible and attainable?
- Focused and flexible? Does it provide enough clarity and alignment to guide Epiphany's decisions, but not restrict initiative?
- Easy to communicate? Is it understandable and short enough to remember?

CORE VALUES AND THEIR DEFINITIONS:

Core values describe "how" the vision will be implemented. They define what Epiphany believes and will guide our attitudes and actions.

On Nov. 15, members developed the following statement that brings the core values identified through the survey, together in one sentence, to create context and meaning:

Epiphany's core value is love, expressed through grace, faithfulness, welcoming new people and ideas, social justice and stewardship.

The Visioning Committee has developed the following definitions for each element of the core values statement:

- Love: Equipped by the teachings of the Scriptures and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we care for everyone as God cares for us, without condition or judgement.
- Grace: Grace is God's gift, which is freely given out of love, through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In response we strive to pass it on through our words and actions.
- Faithfulness: God is faithful to his people, constant in his mercy and goodness. Trusting in him, we are called to be faithful to God and to one another through our actions of mercy, goodness and trust.
- Welcoming people and ideas: We are an inclusive and accepting community, without barriers.
- Social Justice: We will promote social justice for all, including those who may vary from us in age, physical abilities, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class and religious practices. We assist people to have equal access to resources, health, well-being, justice, privileges and opportunities.
- Stewardship: We are called to utilize and manage all the resources God provides, for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation. We are not owners but stewards of all that comes into our lives—income, property, our environment, time, talents, and our very selves.

As you consider the definitions above, is there anything you'd like to change or clarify?

Please mark your calendar for January 3, following the worship service to discuss and confirm Epiphany's Vision Statement and Core Values.

This visioning exercise has highlighted the loving and caring nature of Epiphany's people. We are grateful for each one of you. Wishing you the joy and peace of Christmas!

Gordon Vollmer, Ron Heino, Geoff Crewe, James Dennis and Pastor Rasma, members of the Visioning Committee