

2010 Strategic Plan

Cushing First United Methodist Church

In an effort to grow our church and help us focus on our mission of “Helping People Put God First” the First United Methodist Church of Cushing has developed a strategic plan for the calendar year 2010. The plan is based on answering the following four questions. How do we help people relate to God? How do we relate to one another? How do we help people serve God’s mission? How do we relate to our community? The plan is organized in outline format. Under each of these questions are goals set out to help us improve in the area addressed by the question. Under each goal are the objectives we feel are necessary to achieve that goal. Persons/Committees listed in objectives and goals are responsible for making sure the objective is reached and may or may not be the actual person working on the objective. Items without specific time lines are to be considered ongoing.

1. How do we help people relate to God?
 - a. Increase Small Groups(Sunday School, book studies, UMW, etc) by 5 by 12/31/2010
 - i. Inventory of small group opportunities performed by “small group chair” due to Ad council by December 31, 2009. Comparative data will be presented to Ad Council at the end of each quarter thereafter.
 - ii. Inventory of small groups will be compiled and kept current. Opportunities will be posted on our web site and on our information center in the Narthex.
 - iii. Leader or designee will utilize announcement time in worship to tell about opportunities and ask for prayers for program.
 - b. Improve Worship(on campus and off campus)
 - i. Sunday 8:30 and 10:50
 1. Have someone share their faith experience with the congregation at 8:30 and 10:50 service once a month.
 2. The choir director will investigate, and present a plan for integrating the organ into worship to Ad Council by January 31, 2010. The plan should outline financial burden and number of opportunities per year.
 3. The worship committee will explore ways to enhance worship through the use of current audio/video technology, how it is used at other churches and what resources are available. The worship committee will report to Ad Council by February Ad Council meeting.
 4. The Pastor will establish a Worship Planning Team made up of Pastor, Worship chairperson, children’s director, choir director, youth director (as needed). This team will meet regularly to review and plan worship experience, including

way to incorporate contemporary elements into existing services.

5. The Worship Planning Team will provide a short drama supporting the sermon, (possible early and morning worship) eight times a year.

ii. Worship opportunities outside of Sunday morning

1. A task force composed of interested individuals, including, but not limited to, Ted Uhlig, Doug Withiam, Syndi Rowe, Monty Waldron, Denise Hale, Lou Griffin and Tyson Branyan will explore the feasibility of an alternative worship service. Determinations about who the target audience is, what staffing would be required, and other resources required will be presented at the March Ad Council Mtg.
2. We will continue to host the "Extreme Worship Service", six times per year on Sunday night, targeted at young family, planned by youth and children's age groups and coordinators.
3. The Worship Planning Team will explore services included in the "Book of Worship" for additional worship activities ie. "Blessing of the Animals", "Wesley's Covenant Renewal". The team will also staff proposals for additional worship activities.
4. Our camp representative will inventory and promote District and Conference camps and retreats (Mid winter retreat, family camp, children's camp, Youth Camp, mother child) encouraging pastoral and laity involvement. Promote camps in worship and in the Action a month prior to registration deadlines.

c. Personal Spiritual Growth

- i. Encourage membership to read through the bible from Jan 1 2010 to Dec. 31 2010. Possibly form into small group study or accountability group led by Frank Denney. Track number of people that start and finish.
- ii. We will survey membership on level of spiritual development, complete by Dec. 31, 2009, and yearly thereafter. Kent Burris and Frank Denney will devise the survey instrument and record findings at the February Ad Council meeting.
- iii. Worship planning team will allow 3-5 minutes in 8:30 and 10:50 service for Devotion training. Speakers will address their individual spiritual development and how they get "One on one", with God 6 times per year.
- iv. Prayer training

1. We will offer a 1 day class lead by Susan Southall, associate pastor Enid FUMC. Frank Denney will coordinate the class and have it scheduled by the March Ad Council meeting.
 2. The small group coordinator will research an ongoing small Group book study on prayer and schedule class by April Ad Council Meeting.
2. How do we relate to one another?
- a. Establish Family Care Committee (formerly Sheparding)
 - i. The Lay Leadership Development committee will re-establish the Sheparding Committee, to be called the Family Care committee. They will recruit chair by 12/31/09.
 - ii. This committee will develop and implement a procedure for identifying needs and sourcing care givers within the FUMC Family. They will also offer training for care givers.
 - b. Spiritual Gift Discernment
 - i. The small group coordinator will offer a Small Group study on Spiritual Gift Discernment by 4/1/09.
 - ii. Conduct spiritual gifts inventory by 9/1/2010.
 - iii. Utilize information gathered in inventory to identify opportunities for service for Lay Leadership Dev Committee.
 - c. Vision Identification, Purpose and Planning
 - i. Relate all of our activities to our mission of "Helping People Put God First".
 - ii. Ad council will review strategic plan quarterly to check progress, modify and reassign objectives.
 - iii. Overall Strategic plan will be reviewed in October and modified for upcoming year based on current year performance and membership input. (Ad council, Pastor, membership)
 - d. Passionate and Participatory Worship(also see item 1b)
 - i. Have 3 people besides the pastor address the congregation at each service (increase lay participation in worship) includes teachers/facilitators of classes, small groups, faith sharing and devotion training at every service.
3. How do we help people serve God's mission?
- a. Risk Taking Mission and Service
 - i. Committee chairs or group leaders will publicize opportunities for service, address congregations about opportunities and report on activities.(refer to item 1 aiii)
 - ii. Publicize VIM training opportunities inside and outside of service times.
 - iii. Our goal is to offer 12 mission projects per calendar year,(off the property)
 1. Involve first timers (10)
 2. total involvement 100

- iv. Offer 12 service projects per calendar year
 - b. Deliberate Faith Sharing(see item 1Bi1)
 - c. Leadership Development
 - i. Apply information gathered from spiritual gift discernment (item 2,b,iii) to identify talent.
 - ii. Lay Leadership development committee will seek out training opportunities for development of these individuals specific to their assignment, notify appropriate individuals and encourage participation. (Emphasize lay speaker training)
 - iii. Lay Leadership will sponsor a leadership retreat for all committee chairs to provide general leadership training by March 31.
 - iv. LLDC will meet a minimum of 4 times per calendar year.
 - d. Extravagant Generosity
 - i. Spiritual need to give will be addressed in 8:30 and 10:50 services quarterly. Emphasize individuals need to give not churches need to receive. (Worship Planning Team)
 - ii. Develop culture of generosity with prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Teach preach and practice this culture.
4. How do we relate to our community?
- a. Radical Hospitality
 - i. Continue to provide “hospitality table”(Evangelism)
 - ii. Recruit and train ushers and greeters, training to be held by Jan 31, 2010.(Head Usher)
 - iii. Include “Hands of friendship”, 2 times per month, during 10:50 service. (Worship Planning Team)
 - iv. Empower people to carry inviting spirit into community
 - 1. We will host “excuse event” 7 times per year. An excuse event is a “special” event that gives us an excuse to invite others to the event. Can be during regular service or outside regular service time frame but must be substantially different from regular activities. (Worship Planning Team)
 - 2. We will monitor guest attendance, both 1st time and repeat guests.
 - 3. Develop guest follow up process and activate by Jan 31, 2010. Pastor and Evangelism
 - b. Proclaiming Christ-Evangelism
 - i. Bridge from Small Miracles to FUMC
 - 1. Study opportunities for Church involvement in SM activities and report monthly to Ad Council. (Church Members/SM Board Members)
 - 2. Improve relationship between church members/staff and participating families and staff.
 - 3. Improve communication, assign liaison (Kent Burris)

4. Encourage membership to view SM as mission opportunity and treat is as such.
 - ii. Continue “Block Party”(Evangelism)
 - iii. Increasing Kairos connection (Frank Denney)
 - iv. Continue VBS, emphasizing ongoing connection with families of VBS participants.
 1. Celebration dinner with assigned seating (Children’s Coord.)
 2. Coordinate follow up with evangelism committee and /or appropriate group.
- c. Global Church Connection
- i. Educate membership about apportionments, how they are calculated, where they go.
 1. Mission moment in Worship Service 6 times per year. Directors/people with funded programs talking about where the money goes and what it does. (Mission Committee)
 2. Emphasize attendance/participation in annual conference(Pastor, Lay Leader)
 3. Small group study to educate participants about apportionments. (Small Group Coord)
 4. Three times per year the missions committee will arrange to host a *direct* beneficiary of an apportionment funded program. (not the director of a supported program)