

Making Disciples Report to the 2007 Charge Conference

We, as the United Methodist Church in Western Pennsylvania, believe that we are faithfully following Jesus Christ under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the building up of God's kingdom as we move forward with the Strategic Plan for ministry that was approved at the 2006 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. We will strive to support the mission, live the vision and promote the core values of the annual conference even as we, as a local church, echo these ideals.

MISSION

To provide leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Annual Conference accomplishes this mission through its programs, boards, councils, agencies and ministry and support staff. A local church accomplishes this mission through its clergy and lay leadership, and ministries of nurture, outreach and witness.

VISION

To ignite and sustain a passionate, spiritual connection with Christ among all people in Western Pennsylvania.

This vision of the annual conference becomes a reality through the ministry of the local church.

CORE VALUES

Our core value is love: We love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. This value is commanded by Jesus, inspired by our Wesleyan heritage, including "to spread scriptural holiness over the land", and witnessed through our integrity, accountability and inclusiveness.

The core values of the annual conference are lived by the people who form the boards, councils and agencies and who serve on the staff of the annual conference and by the people of the local churches in WPA.

GOALS

DISCOVER: *To ensure that United Methodist communities of faith are healthy, effective and strategically positioned throughout Western Pennsylvania.*

STRETCH: *Increase United Methodist presence within WPA by developing new communities of faith and new ministry groups.*

LEAD: *Expect and achieve excellence in lay and clergy leadership.*

GO: *Increase local church involvement in mission, justice and outreach ministry, locally, regionally, nationally and globally.*

CONNECT: *Improve the ministry and systems of the Annual Conference to better facilitate disciple-making.*

The objective of each of these goals for the annual conference are detailed in the Strategic Plan document. Local churches can participate in these goals by considering the following and reporting to the charge conference:

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DISCOVER

1. What assessment tools and/or resources have been used to evaluate the overall ministry of your church?

a) Natural Church Development Yes _____ No _____

 If you have used NCD, what is your minimum factor? _____

 If you have used NCD, what is your maximum factor? _____

b) Other (Be specific) _____

c) What did you discover about your congregation using these assessment tools?

2. In what ways is the congregation healthy and effective in making disciples?

a) How many baptisms have you celebrated in the past year? _____

b) How many new members have you received by profession of faith? _____ Of this number, how many were confirmands? _____

c) What is your average worship attendance in 2007? _____ Is this an increase or decrease over worship attendance in 2006? Increase _____ Decrease _____

d) How are you nurturing those who have been welcomed into your fellowship?

3. Describe your plan for making disciples.

STRETCH

1. What new ministry group (Bible study, small group, worship service, prayer group, etc.) has begun in your church in the last year?

2. What are your plans for starting a new ministry group in the coming year?

LEAD

1. How are the lay church leaders of the congregation being trained/equipped for ministry?

2. Does the pastor have an intentional plan of continuing education? Yes _____ No _____
 - a) If yes, what is the plan?

 - b) If no, please explain how the pastor is fulfilling the disciplinary requires for continuing education (¶ 323.3)?

 - c) How does this plan support/compliment the local church goal and mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world?

GO

1. How has the local church been involved in mission outreach in 2007?
 - a) Volunteer in Mission Training _____
 - b) VIM Mission Trip (s) _____
 - 1) Local _____
 - 2) National _____
 - 3) Gulf Coast _____
 - 4) International _____
 - c) Other _____ (please specify)

2. What have you done to support special appeals and/or needs? (e.g.: fundraising efforts, pledge campaigns, "challenges", etc.)
- a) Nothing But Nets?

 - b) Disaster Appeals?

 - c) Advance Specials?

 - d) Other (please specify)

CONNECT

1. In what specific ways is your congregation working to strengthen and promote the connection of the United Methodist Church?

2. In what specific ways are you working cooperatively with other United Methodist Churches/Ministries in your community and/or region?

3. In what specific ways are you working cooperatively with other communities churches and/or faith based ministries? (e.g.: Angel Food Ministry, Day Care, Senior Care, etc.)

Church Council Chairperson:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor's Signature indicating her/his participation in the process and review of this report

Signature: _____ Date _____