

Healthy Congregation Team Report

The Healthy Congregation Report given to the congregation in December, 2008 listed four areas of concern based on interviews, workshops, and conversations with members of the congregation.

1) **Clergy leadership**

Establish clear reasonable expectations; building trust with the pastor will be essential

Lay leadership

Increase the base of active leaders, nurture new ones

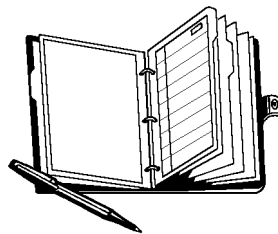
2) **Clarify who you are as a congregation and where God is calling you**

3) **Communication and community building**

4) **Structural questions** i.e., such things as responsibility and accountability, particularly how money is handled

In addition to those four areas, the other issue repeated frequently was “a lack of follow-through and follow-up” on things begun.

There were often good plans made which then



ended on a shelf and disappeared into the mists of the past.

A Healthy Congregation Action Planning Team (HCAP Team) was appointed to find ways to respond to the concerns. These were then presented to the congregation and finally given to the Vision & Ministry Council. As a response to the concern about a lack of follow-through, the HCAP Team agreed to return at a later date with an evaluation of the progress or lack of progress. This proved to be somewhat challenging. However, in the time between, some things have been accomplished and others yet to be fully developed or implemented.

The team would also like to suggest that a process for ongoing assessment be implemented. It is important to be aware of accomplishments as well as “not yet” addressed needs.

Who Are We?

The task of finding and calling a new pastor

required that this question be at least partially answered. In an effort to be one congregation, the relationship to the denominations of which we are a part has often been shoved to the side. Two things have been made clear.

- 1) In an effort to become one congregation we may have lost some of the gifts which come from our two denominational heritages.
- 2) We have focused most on what we do as a church and have given little thought to how that connects to our mission and ministry, the “Why” behind the “What.”

Clergy Leadership

Since others were primarily responsible for finding pastoral leadership and developing plans for that relationship, the HCAP Team turned its focus to lay leadership.

Lay Leadership

development is key to the health and well-being of the congregation. The plan presented two years ago focused on more training for those in leadership or coming into leadership.

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Healthy Congregation Team Report (continued)

This is an area still in development. The goal is for those who come into leadership positions do so with a sense that they know and understand what they are asked to do.

Leaders of teams and others are doing this. It needs to continue to receive attention and take place regularly.

Communication

This is a never-ending challenge for any

community. There have been and still are: continuing efforts to keep the website up-to-date, make sure people receive *New Directions*, stay in touch through the prayer chain, the Shepherding program and have representatives on ministry teams who report to the council regularly. It seems this is an area which needs constant attention.

Structural Questions

Sound financial practices

regarding the handling of all church moneys are not in place.

Since the goal of any structure is to enable the body to act effectively in the future, as times and needs change, structures need to continue being evaluated and adapted.

Recycling at St. Luke Union Church

The recycling team now consists of:

- Chuck Yurieci
- Don Kearfott
- Glenn Stille
- Amie Keeton

We are striving toward increasing our recycling

efforts, so please bring in your newspapers and aluminum cans!

We will start cleaning out the garage, so if anything needs to be saved, please let one of us know immediately.



Women's Fellowship Spring Brunch

All women of St. Luke Union Church are invited to attend the annual Spring Brunch on March 27th, 2010 at 9:30 am.

Please watch for more details in Sunday bulletin announcements.

Sign-up sheets will be available March 13th and 20th in Fellowship Hall.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Women's Fellowship Annual Retreat to Pilgrim Park is April 23rd to April 25th this year.

More information is coming soon!

Watch for updates in the weekly worship folder announcements.

Mark your calendar now!