

2010 Long Range Plan Draft

Ark and Dove's Mission Statement

Ark & Dove is a community of disciples that embodies the life & Spirit of Jesus Christ so that lives are transformed and God's dream is carried into the world.

Over the next few years A&D will focus on a number of program areas that are central to our mission statement. These areas are:

1. Spiritual Formation
2. Alternative Worship
3. Outreach / Mission
4. Systems of engagement and equipping - How best to organize, resource to fulfill.

Intentional – This word came up a lot. We want to use Intentional Behavior to fulfill our vision. Willful, Proactive and Determined.

Program Development

Spiritual Formation – Creating a Community of Christ

There is a strong desire to develop an intentional program of spiritual formation for all ages. We see this being an important element of our goal to equip ourselves to recognize and engage those who are “poor, captive, oppressed and blind” so that together we may discover and live our call within the body of Christ. Some important elements of this may include:

- Development of a center of education with intentional goals for curriculum
 - Build on our small group successes to expand these opportunities. The long-range goal for Small Groups is to have 100% of Ark and Dove's congregation involved in at least *one* small group study activity during the course of the year.
 - Develop a series/forum for invited authors, lecturers and speakers
 - The programs must be diverse to be welcoming and inviting to offer something for many including those outside of our congregation
- Sunday School program
 - Want to explore ways to expand our enrollment.
 - We want to re-evaluate the way we support and conduct our toddler/nursery program by possibly separating them. This will provide an opportunity to have lesson plans for the toddlers.
 - There is a desire to re-evaluate the way we conduct Sunday School for Pre-K and up. There is a desire to evaluate the type and ways we offer worship opportunities for the children.
- Children/Youth programs
 - There is a desire to strengthen our children and youth programs by evaluating our LOGOS and Club 2,3,4 programs to make them more integrated or to possibly combine them.

Alternative Worship –

We recognize that worship happens in many forms and places and not just on Sunday morning. There is a strong desire to create opportunities for alternative forms of worship. There is also a desire to continue to encourage opportunities for more congregation participation in worship.

Sunday Worship

- We should continue to offer occasional different worship services such as the “Station” exercise conducted in September 2010.
- We should encourage opportunities for more choir and band led worship services.
- We should include opportunities of introducing customs of other faith communities to our services. This could include invitations to other faith leaders to our services.

Other worship opportunities

- We should develop a master plan for spiritual contemplation through prayer gardens, labyrinth and spiritual meander – open to the community
- Off campus opportunities
 - Meetings at public venues
 - Small groups
 - Team and ministry meetings

Outreach and Mission

We should seize the opportunity to carry out our faith through action. We have a strong desire to continue on our path of growing our efforts into a practice not a project. We can be a leader in bringing faiths together through our mission efforts. We also have an opportunity to be a strong voice in development in West County.

We have a strong desire to continue our legacy of mission efforts such as:

- Homeless outreach – continue to support the Winter Relief Shelter program
- Habitat for Humanity – continue to support the interfaith coalition
- Sarah’s House – we believe there are opportunities for engaging our youth in this effort
- Christian Assistance Program – we want to explore the need to be a leader in advocating for development of a central location to serve the needs of this program as a consolidated program
- Guatemala Partnership
- Lakota Sioux youth partnership

We have a strong desire to be a force to bring faith together. We should seek to engage other faith communities to build a plan for supporting the needs of our local communities. We should seek to understand what the needs are and how we can support these needs.

We would like to explore the opportunities to expand our capabilities to support our local mission by acquiring or leasing a 15 passenger van. We also believe that the mission

opportunities can expand to the point where we should evaluate the feasibility of hiring a part-time mission director.

There is a desire to continue our efforts to proactively invite our community to participate in our numerous programs and offerings.

System of Engaging and Equipping

We have strong desire to continue our efforts to be a church that empowers our members to pursue their passions and to provide the opportunities and tools to do that. Over the next 3 years we want to fulfill our plan to successfully provide intentional processes to engage and connect the members of our congregation so that they can be in community and deepen their spirituality. As part of our efforts, we will look at the continuum of the spiritual journey of our members as they are initially welcomed into our midst, through their growth as they discover their opportunities in the body of Christ, and as they mature to discipleship as lay leaders in the congregation.

We have a goal of an intentional process that evaluates our gifts and talents and matches these to the many needs we have to support our church's mission and the individual's own spiritual growth. We believe there are opportunities to join our newer members with current members to promote a feeling of connection.

We believe there are opportunities to better equip our lay leaders through more organized gatherings that promote our team structure. We're also mindful of the need to evaluate our team commitments and the adequacy of our support systems to allow these teams to grow. There is a desire to evaluate the organization of our teams to look for ways to support fulfillment of our vision of increasing participation by our members.

We should look for ways to support efforts to send our lay leaders to growth opportunities outside of our church. Continuing our legacy of Deep Shift participation, we should encourage participation in leadership development as well as skill development such as for our choir, band etc.

Program Support

The many programs of our church will continue to be supported by our Administrative and Facilities ministries through their stewardship of our facility and administrative functions. We will continue to support these functions by making responsible decisions and by looking to offer the best guidance we can to our lay leaders who generously give of their talents.

We will strive to improve our systems by consistently looking for ways to improve our administrative tools, applying additional time and energy in the development of budgets, and increasing the depth of participation in performing administrative tasks. We will pursue opportunities to enhance our accounting functions through better server based software. We can enhance our long term financial well being by accessing Presbytery resources to provide access

to information on personal financial planning. We have a desire to improve the level and content of regular communications with the congregation. We can improve the functionality and attraction of our website as a portal for our community to know more about Ark and Dove.

We have a strong desire to continue our growth and understanding of our responsibilities as good stewards of our facility and the environment we live in. We intend to grow in our understanding of “Green Technologies” to improve the operation of our buildings structural, mechanical and electrical systems. As we grow, we must continue to evaluate our physical space to ensure it meets the needs of our congregation. We have a need to re-evaluate and update our master plan to make sure it’s consistent with our future vision of Ark and Dove.