

Visioning



2010 Annual Report A Review of Year One of MPC's Three Year Visioning Plan



MOORPARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

The purpose of Moorpark Presbyterian Church is to glorify God and to help people become fully committed, joyful disciples of Jesus Christ

A fully committed disciple demonstrates

- A commitment to Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior
- A commitment to the church as the body of Christ
- A commitment to the work of Christ in the world

Core Values

These principles form the foundation of all we do:

- Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and we worship Him in spirit and truth (*John 3:16; John 1:4; Jude 1:25; Isaiah 43:11*)
- The Bible is the true Word of God (*John 1:1; Hebrews 4:12; Col. 3:16; Eph. 6:17; Psalm 119; 1 Peter 1:24*)
- Prayer is an essential part of our lives (*Phil. 4:6; Proverbs 15:29; Psalm 6:9; Mark 11:24; Matthew 21:22*)
- All are welcome (*Matthew 11:28; 1 John 4:11-12; 1 John 4:19*)
- We love one another, providing compassion and support for our church family and beyond (*1 John 3:11; 1 John 4:19; 1 John 4:16; John 13:34; Matthew 22:39; John 15:17; Zec. 7:9; Matthew 11:28; Ephesians 4:32*)
- We love and minister to our youth, involving them in the life of the church (*Matthew 19:14; Proverbs 22:6; Psalm 78:5; Mark 9:37*)
- All are encouraged to discover and use their spiritual gifts to the glory of God (*Romans 1:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11*)
- We are disciples of God and are called to make disciples of others (*Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:20*)
- We are called to share our faith with all people (*Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15, 20; Proverbs 11:30; Matthew 10:6-8; 2 Timothy 4:2*)
- We minister to the spiritual and physical needs of humankind in our local community and throughout the world (*Matthew 28:19; Matthew 10:6-8; Matthew 25:34-40; Mark 12: 30-34a; James 1:27a; Isaiah 61:1; 1 Peter 5:2*)

Vision Statement

A Vision Statement looks ahead, providing a vivid picture of where we are going and to what we aspire; for MPC's Vision Statement, we are looking at a three year process.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Moorpark Presbyterian Church is a joyful light, beckoning and integrating people into the fellowship of believers.

Strategic Priorities

These look at the Vision Statement and answer the question ‘How are we going to get there?’ They provide focus and guide planning.

- Establish a strong emphasis on evangelism
- Make MPC more a part of the community and make the community a part of us (“hands on” local mission)
- Increase our involvement in “hands on” global mission
- Identify, encourage, value and honor the use of individual spiritual gifts
- Cultivate a worship environment where people are drawn closer to God
- Welcome and include people into the life, fellowship and mission of our church

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VISIONING OVERSIGHT TEAM 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Moorpark Presbyterian Church is a joyful light, beckoning and integrating people into the fellowship of believers. – Vision, Moorpark Presbyterian Church

Are we closer to becoming this vision today than we were one year ago, when the plan was implemented? The Visioning Oversight Team met January 24, 2011, to assess our progress. This was a valuable time to celebrate our successes, learn from our challenges, and redirect our efforts, where necessary, to ensure that our actions and our Vision are aligned.

The following report summarizes the opinion of the team. It includes our accomplishments, to date. It also includes opportunities for improvement.

Accomplishments

Team members acknowledge that we've traveled a ways down the road to becoming the church described in our vision. Work has focused on six strategic priorities deemed critical to becoming our vision. Significant accomplishments include:

Establish a strong emphasis on evangelism

Our youth programs, TNT (1st – 5th grade), Forgiven(middle school), Renew(high school) and D.O.R.K.S.(high school girls), all encourage kids to invite their friends. 40-50% of our regular student attendees in Forgiven and Renew are un-churched and come from families without believing parents. 80% of the girls in D.O.R.K.S. are from un-churched families. All four programs have new students visiting regularly.

Over 450 people (100 youth) came to see the Danny Ray, the illusionist, at MPC. This included 300 people from the community.

152 children attended Marketplace in 2010, as compared to 130 in 2009. Approximately 40% of those attending this year were children from families who don't attend MPC.

Children's Ministries has just started the "Two for One Special." If a child brings a friend to Sunday School, we'll capture the two smiles in one picture, to be displayed on a special "I brought my friend" board on the upper patio

Approximately 105 MPC'ers walked with our truck and praise band in the Moorpark Country Days parade.

Pastor Dave, along with Daryl Fisher-Ogden, taught a Sunday School class on friendship evangelism, in the Fall of 2010. Attendance was light.

Pastor Dave and Associate Pastor Janet both gave sermons on evangelism in Spring, 2010.



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Testimonial ads, featuring MPC members, were placed in The Acorn. These ads have targeted different demographic groups. An ad for Renew appeared in the high school basketball media guide.

MPC is now on Facebook. Our page features photos, information about events, and reminders.

We had a booth at the Moorpark July 3 fireworks show. Volunteers were hard to get. Participation at the booth was light.

The mosaic cross project was taken out into the community where large groups of people could be reached. People were invited to write their names on the back of a tile and place it on the cross. They were then invited to come to church on Easter to see the cross after it had been installed in a rose garden. Several community members attended after participating in this project.

The Communications Ministry Team has helped with ads, banners, and print pieces featuring MPC and our upcoming events. Ads, a Christmas Eve services banner and an invitation card all featured MPC Advent/Christmas programs. A beautiful star graphic was used in publicity throughout the season.

Make MPC more a part of the community and the community a part of us (“hands on” local mission).

We’ve established lines of communication with the communities we reach for outreach and service. Representatives from various community organizations have presented at the Missions Ministry Team meeting.

Based on feedback from community leaders, the Missions Team has determined the need to expand outreach to children, youth and families.

The registration cost for the Santa Barbara Presbytery Missions Conference was paid, for those interested in attending. Unfortunately, only four people attended.

Missions representatives attended the “March Madness” workshop presented by Ojai Pres. to get ideas that can be adapted to MPC.

We’ve identified and adopted several local missions for regular involvement:

We helped with Treasure Box distribution in June. In a combined effort of Missions Ministry Team and the MPC Deacons, 20 Treasure Boxes were provided for deacons’ flock members.

One of our congregation members is very involved with the Lord’s Table feeding program.

24 organizations exhibited at our Mission Fair in October.

D.O.R.K.S. and the Community Pregnancy Center(CPC) gave a “baby shower” in January. The congregation generously donated diapers for the CPC. Children’s Ministries has also strengthened our ties with the Community Pregnancy Center, giving the children of the single moms who come for fellowship a planned night with movie and craft.

Through the “Angel Tree” campaign, 120 Christmas gifts were donated to Catholic Charities, for needy children in the community.

MPC has been deemed a Red Cross Disaster Center.

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The children's Sunday School classes truly take their local and global mission projects (Heifer International, Lighthouse Women's and Children's Mission, God's Hidden Treasures, and Catholic Charities) to heart.

Our Youth Ministry is involved in the community, and has been able to get really positive exposure for our church. In December, boys from Renew worked on a house with Habitat for Humanity.

Increase our involvement in "hands on" global mission

We had presentations from Nita Hanson (God's Hidden Treasures) and Steve and Kathryn Christensen (Wycliffe Bible Translators), both of whom we support in their missions.

97 boxes of Christmas gifts were donated for Operation Christmas Child.

The youth groups support two "compassion children," one in Africa and the other in South America, with their weekly offering.

See reference to Children's Ministries projects, above.

Identify, encourage, value and honor the use of individual spiritual gifts.

Associate Pastor Janet Loughry, along with Janet Fredrickson and Bonnie Boe, are teaching "The Gift that Keeps on Giving," a Sunday School class which invites participants to assess and use their spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ and further the ministry of the Gospel. A new spiritual gifts inventory, "Open Door," is being pilot tested in the class. It will be made available to the entire congregation at the conclusion of the class.

The Integration & Discipleship Ministry Team is designing an online ministry opportunities database, which will be accessed via www.mysignups.com. This service will allow those needing volunteers to post opportunities and those wanting to serve to check the listings and sign up in areas where they can best use their gifts.

An online process for completion and tracking of Interest and Activity Sheets has been created. New members complete the I&A sheets online, the information is integrated into a database accessible only to those who need to know this information to get people involved in their areas of interest.

Sunday School teacher training times prepare teachers with new ideas and materials.

Youth Ministries leaders completed a spiritual gifts inventory, discussed their gifts and how they can use them better.

Cultivate a worship environment where people are drawn closer to God.

We're honoring MPC traditions that are highly valued by our congregation.

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We're more intentional about what we do, with services tied to a theme. Quarterly worship planning meetings, with all worship leaders, including pastors, Worship Director, Choir Director, Drama Director, and praise team leaders, are helping with this effort.

We're explaining the reasons why we do what we do. Pastor Dave completed a sermon series on this topic in May. Announcements provide an opportunity to explain programs and traditions.

One-service Sundays in August were a big success, bringing everyone together in worship and providing an opportunity for extended fellowship.

The children's Christmas program, the evening Christmas program, and Christmas Eve services involved people of all ages in sharing the news of Jesus' birth. These programs were well-received by the many people who attended (785 at the Christmas Eve services).

A choir director and drama director have been hired to fill vacancies in these positions.

Children's Ministries has enriched the Praise and Celebrate time, which is providing a deeper worship focus.

Youth Ministries has placed an emphasis on worship and the need to understand worship through everyday living. Youth Pastor Em states that he has seen a "massive improvement" in growth and maturity in this area.

The Worship Team and Youth Ministries have collaborated to involve youth in the praise music and dramas during worship services.

The Worship Ministry Team held an information day, which resulted in recruiting of new volunteers who were interested in participating in some facet of the worship services.

Welcome and include people into the life, fellowship and mission of our church.

The appearance and condition of the physical structure – appearance from the street, entrance, grounds, sanctuary and other buildings – are big determinants for people deciding to visit a church. So much has been done to address this! The following list is not all-inclusive:

A monument sign has been installed on the corner of Peach Hill and Spring.

The planter area at the entrance to the parking lot has been landscaped.

Illuminated crosses have been created and installed on the front and back exteriors of the sanctuary.

A mosaic cross, created with the help of countless community members, has been installed in a rose garden that was donated by a family in our congregation.

A Fellowship Patio was poured in mid-January. Landscaping is being done by congregation members.

The kitchen in Fellowship Hall was remodeled and the carpet and tile replaced throughout that building.

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Action is continually taken to improve the greeters' ministry at MPC. At present, there are 58 trained greeters, enough so that people only greet every 7-8 weeks.

Welcome desserts are held for people who have visited MPC three times. These events occur when we have enough visitors to make up a comfortable event. Attendees at the last welcome dessert all signed up for the new member class! I&D and Fellowship team up to present the desserts.

Deacons follow up with new members by telephone, to ensure that they have found a place to participate in the life of the church. Historically, they have recorded and reported the responses using a manual process. Now, deacons can complete *Deacon's New Member Follow-up Form* online. The responses are integrated into the same database as that created for the Interest and Activity Sheets (see "Spiritual Gifts..." above). This links to a process for ensuring that everyone who wants to be involved has an opportunity to do so.

We have 22 distinct small groups and more than 235 small group participants, an increase of approximately 17.5% over December, 2009! The Small Groups Coordinator plans to encourage all groups to be involved in outreach programs in 2011.

A Men's Ministries Coordinator position has been created and reports through the I&D Ministry Team. I&D provided seed money for this ministry and will help support scholarships for activities. The I&D ministry team provides some financial support for Women's Ministries, the Kids Free Gang, and Military Families Support Group, as well.

The Fellowship Ministry Team continues to plan events that will entice everyone to participate in the fun and fellowship of their church family.

Opportunities for Improvement

The team also acknowledges that we have opportunities for improvement. As stated during the January 24 meeting, "We get it, and we're appropriately critical."

Commitment to the Vision

Our Visioning Plan -- Vision, Mission, Core Values and Strategic Objectives -- isn't just another program that occupies our time. It should be the filter through which everything must pass in order to be considered the critical work of the church.

A little over a year out from the implementation of the Visioning Plan, there are still people who are not aware of the plan. And, there are those who no longer perceive it as a top priority. Involvement in developing the visioning plan was limited. We need to step up communication about this very important process.

We might start by working with the small groups coordinator, youth leaders, and staff, to spread the word.

We might also consider a Visioning Team "reunion," to reenergize this group about the Vision and our strategic priorities.

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The Strategic Priorities are goals, not teams.

While they are “owned” by specific ministry teams, the work identified to address each of the strategic priorities is the responsibility of the entire church. It seems that several groups get this, but not everyone and every team has adopted this perspective.

So, as we move into the second year of implementation of the Visioning Plan, strategic priority “owners” need to team up with other groups and individuals who can help them to accomplish the objectives in their strategic priority action plans. Collaboration, communication and recognition will be critical to accomplishing this.

Evangelism

Evangelism is a verb, not just a ministry team. We recognize it as a strategic priority in our Visioning Plan, but is it a congregation-wide priority? How is each ministry team and individual helping to spread God’s word?

Our Pastor and Pastoral Associate taught a Sunday School class on friendship evangelism. Attendance was light.

When we invited the community to the Danny Ray event, the turnout was terrific. But, do we know if people come back to MPC? Did they begin attending church anywhere? Is there a way we can capture this?

There is an event planned for April 9 that will probably feature internet security/safety. The Oversight Team recommends targeting youth and families with this event.

We need to strengthen our churchwide emphasis on evangelism! We need to be deliberate and intentional in our planning to ensure that evangelism is a major focus. The team recommends that evangelism be an emphasis in our Advent and Christmas activities and be the Lenten message for 2012. We also recommend that the Evangelism Ministry Team and the Worship Team collaborate to help make this happen. The Fellowship Ministry Team is planning to include an evangelism component in its activities, where possible.

We need to re-ignite the fire that was lit when MPC was a founded!

Discipleship

The goal of the youth leaders this year is to add more “meat” and to lead the youth into a deeper, more serious relationship with Christ.

Volunteer involvement

Ministry Team Involvement is down, especially on the Evangelism and Missions Ministries Teams. We need to address how to recruit and retain volunteers.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Integration and Discipleship Ministry Team is developing a Ministry Opportunities database. Volunteer opportunities will be listed here. Individuals will be able to access the listings through www.mysignups.com. I&D will be working with Communications Ministry Team to make this happen. It is anticipated that this will “go live” by mid-2011. It might be possible to set up a kiosk with computers where people can access the listings on Sunday mornings at MPC.

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The Worship Team placed a card in the registration folders on Sunday, Feb. 6, with opportunities for involvement. The team will hold an open house on Sunday, Feb. 27.

The Missions Ministry Team will research international mission opportunities for adults.

In some cases, it may be helpful to recruit specific individuals for specific tasks, rather than waiting for them to come to us.

Communication

Where we once struggled with effective communication, we now have a Communications Ministry Team. This group has writing, marketing, graphics and computer expertise.

Plans are underway for a Missions Newsletter in 2011. This will be a combined effort of the Communications and Missions Ministry Teams.

The MPC Facebook page can be used to promote programs, post announcements, etc.

Changing Demographics

It was recently reported that Millennials – people 15 - 30 years old – have become the largest population group in the country. Also, 10,000 Baby Boomers will turn 65 EVERY DAY! America's demographic groups are weighted on both ends of the spectrum. As we move forward, we need to consider what this means for MPC.

How do we know if we're making a difference?

The Oversight Team will identify a set of critical indicators of success (metrics) to measure our progress toward accomplishing MPC's Vision.

Conclusion

We've made progress toward our Vision in the past year. With renewed commitment, a greater focus on evangelism, and improved volunteer recruitment, we should be much closer to becoming our Vision in the next two years.

The Oversight Team is grateful for the opportunity to be on the front lines of this MPC-wide effort. As we all work together in the coming year, we are aware that we aren't working alone. We know that the Holy Spirit is working with us behind the scenes.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Heb.10:24