



Leadership Board Minutes for March 12, 2023
Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Kim Bimestefer (Co-Chair)
Steve Brase
Lacye Cahill
Susan Gustin
David Haukeness
Jack Kear, Lay Member to Annual Conference
Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader
Rick Kucera

Doug McKinney
Dan O'Neill (Co-Chair)
Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Eric Ross
Elizabeth Gore Stanley
Tricia Woods, Little Blessings Preschool Director
Ron Wyckoff

Members joined by Zoom:

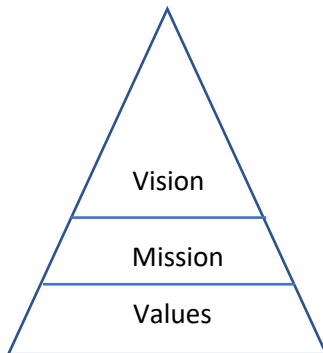
Doug McKinney

Members not in Attendance:

Lacye Cahill
Julie Kronbach
Tricia Woods

Guests in Attendance:

- I. Call To Order: Laura called the meeting to order about 11:50 a.m.
 - A. Opening Devotion – Susan Gustin on Psalm 73
- II. Defining values, vision, mission



- A. Our **values** underpin the **mission** (statement of why we exist), while the **vision** is aspirational – where we want to go
 - B. Some goals of process
 - 1. Simple, memorable
 - 2. Avoid “church-y” words
 - 3. Need to assure that our mission and vision statements make clear that we are a church, with a focus on Jesus (not a secular organization)
- III. Kim led us through a discussion of **values**
 - A. Process
 - 1. Brainstormed to propose words
 - 2. Each voted for top 5
 - 3. Went through a process of clarification, consolidation

B. List of **values** to ponder for future refinement

Proposed Values	Contrasts/Differentiators (see below)
Acceptance-Welcome-Inclusive-Diverse	Alienation/judging
Fellowship	Isolation/surface/emptiness
Christ-centered	Message of xxx/empty words
Faithful	Not faithful
Outreach	Me-focused
Involved-Engaged-Service	Self-centered
Transformational	Stagnation
Loving-Supportive	Isolation/judgment
Authentic-Real	Artificial

C. David pointed us to the values statements of Eastern Hills Community Church (Aurora -- <https://ehills.org/whoweare/>) where there is a contrast/differentiator (e.g., “We value **we** over **me**”). Suggested we eventually phrase our values in a similar format. Also helps to clarify what we mean – if we can’t come up with a contrast, then perhaps we don’t know what these values mean

1. Laura suggested some contrasts – see words in table above

IV. Dan led us through a discussion of **vision**

A. Where we ended up: To be a beacon of Christ-centered hope for our neighbors.

B. Other thoughts

1. Ron: Spawning/be a springboard for new churches
2. Kim: sustainable (in the sense that we still exist in the future)
3. Jack: Christian faith leader in the Parker community
4. Ron: Center of Chris-centered hope in Parker/for our neighbors
5. Susan: home for encompassing diverse perspectives
6. Elizabeth: a hub; Kim: a conduit
7. Jack: hometown church serving Parker
8. Laura: don’t forget the online community
9. Doug: reaching people through all mediums
10. Rick: church growing for the future and beyond

C. Discussion: who do we include in our focus (i.e., for whom are we a beacon)? Parker? SE Douglas County? Neighbors?

V. Laura led us through a discussion of **mission**

A. Where we ended up: We are a faith community where

- **You belong**
- **You grow**
- **You make a difference**

B. Considerations to refine the mission statement

1. Order of phrases
 - a. Steve – most significant word should appear last in list – he suggested that **belong** was the most important and therefore should be last
2. Adjective to describe **community**
 - a. Current preferred adjective = **faith**
 - b. Other possible adjectives
 - 1) Spirit-filled
 - 2) Jesus-following
 - 3) Christ-filled
 - 4) Spirit/God/Jesus led
 - 5) Christian
 - 6) Beloved

- 7) Devoted
- 8) United Methodist
- 9) Loving
- 10) Discipling
- 11) Faithful

3. Problem of parallelism in verbs

- a. Does **grow** make more sense with conditional tense – you **can grow**? But then verbs aren't in parallel form

VI. Next steps

- A. Sit with these words/statements
- B. Revisit and refine at next Board meeting
- C. Dan's suggested questions: What did we miss? What doesn't feel "right?" What wording needs to be tweaked? Do we need to start over? Is this just where you are, or is it really where our congregation is? Etc.?

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Future Meeting(s):

The next meeting is

- Monday, March 20, 2023 starting at 6:00 p.m. with goal to finalize values/mission/vision

The meeting adjourned about 2:15 pm.

Review of Minutes:

The meeting minutes of March 12, 2023 were submitted to Dan and Laura for review on March 13, 2023.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member