

VISION, INITIATIVES AND GOALS FOR CHRIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

VISION

Christ Church, Presbyterian is the embodiment of the Beloved Community. We are changing the world by following where Jesus leads us in service to our neighbor and to each other and by deepening our Christian faith through study and dialogue. The experience of worship and fellowship at CCP is so washed with welcome that – regardless of faith tradition, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age or physical ability – every person who gathers here is filled with a sense of belonging. Here everyone speaks the language of Love and can say with conviction: “In this place, I am seen and known. I am held and loved. This is my home.”

INITIATIVES

GOALS

Exploring Life Transitions	Use worship, study and community events to explore the impact of transitional times and how we can best support one another and members of the wider community at critical life junctures (e.g. retirement, aging, dying, loss of a loved one, births, career change, dealing with physical ability issues/limitations, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Examine aging, death and dying and the impact of these life transitions on our community -Prioritize pastoral care skill and experience in pastor search -Explore ways to re-imagine our weekly schedule to meet the needs of our smaller, aging congregation
Embracing Theological Diversity	Embrace one another’s different faith journeys in our worship and study, recognizing and celebrating the many ways we meet God--however we perceive God-- and recognizing that we grow and are deepened by sharing the perspectives and beliefs of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Occasionally allow time during the service for members of the congregation to talk about their faith -Provide opportunities for the congregation to study theological issues
Being Seen, Known and Heard	Be present to one another in an intentional community that knows, sees and values every individual and listens deeply to their stories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bring communion to those who cannot attend services regularly -Explore potential solutions to environmental issues in our space that limit members’ participation -Evaluate parish group structure to ensure including all who are interested
Being Church in the World	Commit to supporting one another in the ways we individually use our gifts in service to our neighbors and to transforming our little corner of this world so that it mirrors the life and teachings of Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Spotlight individual missions in worship throughout the year -Focus intentionally on ministering to our neighborhood -Identify additional ways to partner with other congregations in mission efforts -Engage in efforts to address systemic social justice issues locally, nationally and internationally

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MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church, Presbyterian is a welcoming, inclusive faith community in Burlington, Vermont.
Inspired by meaningful worship,
nourished around the communion table,
shaped by questioning and deep study of progressive theological and social justice issues,
and *strengthened* by intentional and supportive community,
we are *called* to follow where Jesus leads us in service to our neighbor.

BEING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The concept of the Beloved Community has biblical roots. It was articulated by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and expanded upon by Representative John Lewis. The United Methodist Church has identified the traits below as tangible ways churches can manifest the Beloved Community in their own congregations.

The Beloved Community manifests and protects agape love as its guiding principle and is expressed in the following ways:

1. Offers radical hospitality to everyone; an inclusive family rather than exclusive club.
2. Recognition and affirmation, not eradication of differences.
3. Listens emotionally (i.e. with the heart)-fosters empathy and compassion for others.
4. Tolerates ambiguity-realizes that sometimes a clear-cut answer is not readily available.
5. Acknowledges limitations, lack of knowledge or understanding and seeks to learn.
6. Acknowledges conflict or pain in order to work on difficult issues.
7. Speaks truth in love, always considering ways to be compassionate with one another.
8. Resolves conflict peacefully, ...recognizing that peacefully doesn't always mean comfortably for everybody.
9. Unyielding persistence and unwavering commitment to justice.
10. Righteously opposes and takes direct action against poverty, hunger and homelessness.
11. Blends faith and action to generate a commitment to defeating injustice.
12. Fosters dynamic and active spirituality-recognizes that we serve a dynamic God who is not left behind by a changing world or people, and that a passive approach will not work.
13. Gathers together regularly for table fellowship.
14. Relies on scripture reading, prayer and corporate worship for inner strength.
15. Promotes human rights and works to create a non-racist society.

Adopted by Session: 8/15/19

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