

ReVision Proposals Discerned and Celebrated at ReVision Action Summit

On Sunday, April 24th First Congregational Church combined both the 10am and Koinonia services to hold a OneBody service, a OneBody meal and a ReVision Action Summit to celebrate the completion of the Proposal Phase of the ReVision process. Each proposal team had met over the course of a couple months to discern together what action steps were needed for various proposed ministry ventures. The following action proposals were presented at the ReVision Action Summit:

- **Advocacy & Resources:** This team seeks to meet people where they are with their spiritual & physical needs and connect them to community wide resources. Contact: Laurel Macon at laurelmacon@yahoo.com.
- **Garden of Dreams and FCCBC Partnership:** FCC's faith community together with Garden of Dream's children and families will be richly blessed from intentional opportunities to build and grow our relationship and connection. Without this intention, we will get preoccupied with our own separate agendas, such that FCC will simply become a landlord to the Garden of Dreams. We feel called and excited to create multiple, jointly sponsored programs/resources/activities that will mutually benefit both communities. By these intentional ways to connect our wonderful thriving preschool children and their families, to our caring and committed faith community, we will each grow and truly live out the radical love and extravagant welcome of Jesus for all. Contact: Tom Ott at tom@fccbc.org.
- **Youth Program:** Youth, parents and volunteers are excited to offer the Battle Creek community a progressive, LGBTQ and ally inclusive faith based youth program. It seeks to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all youth to explore their faith through service, social justice engagement, authentic relationships, mentorship and spiritual practices. Contact: Jaimie Fales at jaimie@fccbc.org.
- **Creative Ministries:** This ministry group seeks to further creative ministries at FCC through worship, outreach and the Creative Encountering Fine Arts Program. It seeks to help community members find healing, self-expression, compassion, voice, connection and empowerment through increasing access to experiences and engagement with the fine arts. Contact: Emily Schimmel at creative@fccbc.org.
- **Intergenerational Ministries:** This ministry group seek to provide more opportunities to connect across services and across generations in order to function as the one body we know we are. They propose to deepen relationships, build trust, each others' stories, strengthen our church and grow our church. Here at First Congregational Church we are blessed with two very

unique worship services that are beautiful and faithful in their own ways. Community is alive in these walls, and yet sometimes we are divided...divided in how we worship and express ourselves, how we prefer to organize, or even divided across generations. When we have disconnect, sometimes we struggle to meet the needs of everyone, even when we all want to include everyone. We come together four times a year to remember we are all part of the same church, the same family, the same "one body". Our group believes we need more opportunities to connect across services and across generations in order to function as the one body we know we are. We have three ideas to create these connections so that we might deepen relationships, to build trust, so we might learn each others' stories, to strengthen our church and ultimately grow our church.

1. Guided Autobiography Project This project is dedicated to enriching the lives of adults through writing, sharing and preserving life stories and life experiences. It is a 10 week workshop to help you write and share the stories of your life. Create a written legacy to pass on to your family. Get to know other members of the church on a deeper level. Make connections across generations.

2. Legacy Project Creating video interviews with members of our church to help "get to know you" to be shared with both services, on social media, websites and be archived at the church.

3. Dine with Nine or Supper with Seven Ongoing dinners hosted by a church member where the guest list is a mix from both services. Dining sites can be at members' homes or alternative sites at church or at a park, etc. All family members are encouraged to attend. The meals should be a lite supper with everyone attending bringing part of the meal so the burden is not on the host/hostess. After the meal is complete the dinners will be given a conversation prompt, i.e. "Think back to a childhood home where you once lived. In your imagination stand at the window in your childhood house and tell your partner what you see when you look out." This is a perfect setting to invite a non-church member to join the dinner party.

Contact: Patrice Ott at patriceott@comcast.net.

- **Facilities Improvement:** In connection with FCC's Facilities Manager, Jeff Lambert, this group has assessed needs around our building and grounds to continue facilitating ministry activities. Contact: Randy Case at rcase@aplusd.biz.
- **Communications and Marketing:** This group coordinated an estimate with a local sign company to explore options for directional signage inside and outside

of the church building to help us host the community well in our large space.
Contact: Brent Reid at brent@fccbc.org.

- **Social Justice:** We at FCCBC, proudly planted within the UCC, and the home of Sojourner Truth in particular, are called to be a loving, humble, justice-seeking church. Justice work is Jesus Work. Social injustices are inescapable in our world today. In what areas of justice do you feel called? Different people are called and equipped to respond to our world in different ways. To what areas of justice do you feel called? Which areas would enrich your spiritual life, by doing the work of Jesus, you particularly feel called to do? We are proposing a loving, humble, justice-seeking praxis, a way for FCCBC members and partners to engage the world from a progressive Christian, justice-seeking perspective. Contact: Taryn Vitale at tarynitupa@aol.com

To get more information on these ministries or how you can get involved, feel free to call the church office.

Each proposal team assessed what kind of people, building, time and financial resources are needed to move forward with their ideas. Proposals needing significant financial, building or time resources will continue with an additional discernment process regarding how to prioritize these action items moving forward. This discernment process will include the action team groups, the Church Council and FCC staff. Some proposals already have resources budgeted for them and/or have fundraising efforts built into their ministry plans. Others will require people/time resources and are ready to move forward.

All faith community members are encouraged to find a team to connect with as ministry plans and/or further discernment is taking place.