



LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

OBJECTIVES FOR THE THREE YEAR PERIOD – JUNE 2006 TO 2009 ENDORSED 28-MAY-2006, ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

***To place the utmost importance on gathering as a family at the foot of Christ's cross for the worship and adoration of God in a spirit of surrender to the higher purposes of God.
To be a place of healing and reconciliation and a people of grace.***

To grow the church family - by establishing a culture in which all members of the family play a role in welcoming and inviting people into the life of the church.

1. Encourage the congregation to be more welcoming and inviting.
2. Plan Visitor Sundays, to which church members will be encouraged to invite a friend – followed by a light lunch and open house [twice annually].
3. Establish growth teams involving lay people with clergy for follow up of visitors.
4. Offer New Member's classes at alternative times with increased lay leadership
5. Follow up on Alpha participants and Out of the Cold volunteers with personal invitations to join us for Sunday mornings / church services.
6. Strive to add 50 new members a year, by year three [2009]. Continued every year thereafter.

To seek a congregational identity that reflects the rich diversity of the city.

1. Invite guest preachers and choirs from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
2. Develop a generation of church leaders enriched by cultural, ethnic and generational diversity.

To provide a safe and enriching environment - in which all children and youth are greatly valued and encouraged to participate in the life of the church.

1. Provide a secure space and careful supervision and equip the staff for first aid and emergency provision.
2. Provide opportunities for regular participation of the youth in various aspects of Worship such as ushering, greeting and reading of scripture.
3. Communicate to parents and the congregation the Church school curriculum and inform everyone of children and youth activities through bulletins, inserts, the Church newsletter and a Youth newsletter.
4. Invest in the Church school staff by offering professional development, pre-planning and preparation sessions.
5. Seek out and exercise the talents and gifts of parents to enhance teachings to children and youth.
6. Encourage increased commitment from adults by providing them with follow-up on the children's spiritual lessons.

7. Provide workshops [through professional expertise] for parents on societal issues that affect pre-school and school-age children and teenagers.
8. Seek parent support in hosting, driving and assisting Church school staff and Youth Ministry.

To build a program and nurture a spirit - that challenges us to a deeper devotion and equips us for greater service.

1. Establish a balanced reading program with option for group discussions.
2. Establish two new permanent Bible Study Groups per year.
3. Foster a prayer life within the church that touches all aspect of our life.
4. Broaden alternative forms of Bible Study and fellowship. [ex. Faith and Film, Health and Wellness seminars, YPBC walking club – a continuation of ... and a search for others].

To adapt our governance model as necessary.

1. Increase accountability and participation at the congregational level.
2. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of our decision making process.
3. Increase unity and continuity of spirit and direction.
4. Increase our ability to respond in a timely and appropriate manner to unforeseen circumstances.
5. Increase time and talent available for other ministries.

To strengthen our ministry through the Arts to the Glory of God.

1. Encourage the use of the Sanctuary for sacred concerts.
2. Continue to include the choristers and youth choir in the worship service and occasionally integrate them with the senior choir.
3. Encourage the Board of Music to oversee recordings of the choirs and organ on a frequent basis.
4. Encourage the incorporation of musicians and other instruments in the worship service.
5. Provide an environment to develop and share our artistic talents, in addition to that of music. [For example, supporting the development of a gallery space for visual art exhibits in the centre hall entranceway; continue to offer visual arts classes in the YPBC centre.]

To be engaged as a teaching church - using our gifts to equip others for ministry.

1. Forge educational partnerships with McMaster Divinity College, Tyndale Seminary and other schools through the participation of our clergy in the life of the academy and through the participation of students in the life of the church.
2. Encourage a partnership between the seminaries and the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship and to foster other cooperative possibilities such as combining the visits of guests to our pulpit with visits to the seminary classroom and vice versa.
3. Broaden resources offered and increase awareness of the Gladstone library. Add resources / tools.
4. Links on website to other teaching resources / theological libraries.
5. Encourage Biblical and theological knowledge and understanding among our congregation.

To foster a generosity of spirit - in which we honour all gifts of time, talent and treasures offered in faith.

1. Develop in close cooperation with Finance and Stewardship an affordable plan consistent with the long range objectives.
2. Develop an annual plan of activities for the various ministries which is consistent with the long range objectives.
3. Communicate clearly, succinctly, and regularly, the financial and ministry challenges and opportunities which face the church.
4. Promote planned giving and bequests and report performance of trust funds regularly to the congregation.
5. Develop an introductory stewardship Bible Study/lesson which can be used with new members, adult classes, Bible Studies and private studies, which promotes a global view of stewardship.
6. Acquire or develop a teaching tool for stewardship with children and youth.

To continually sharpen the tools of communication - in order to broaden the opportunity for participation and caring in the church family and to further reach the community for Christ.

1. Acquire and install a YP Telephone tree
2. Broaden the offerings on the website, including church history section and site tours
3. Develop an audio feed and/or web casting of worship services.
4. Make the church directory available to the entire church family.
5. Offer information sessions / "town hall meetings" so that members are more informed of ideas and plans.
6. Create a new generic take-away brochure.
7. Explore alternative means of communication.
8. Re-configure church newsletter.
9. Increase frequency of community flyers.

To answer the call of Christ in the world - and to strengthen our partnerships in mission.

1. Establish an endowed trust fund for ongoing mission work
2. Send a mission team in response to an invitation from CBM, or another mission organization, every one to two years.
3. Encourage our youth to seek opportunities for short-term missions.
4. Communicate existing mission work through Mission Sunday.
5. Broaden awareness of our CBM missionaries. As the opportunity permits - to meet them, learn/highlight their work, include them within our prayers.
6. To explore opportunities for outreach to the workplace; to support each other as we try to live our faith in diverse and secular workplaces.
7. Encourage outreach to the local community.
8. To be a pulse beat of Christian faith in the heart of the city, offering a hand and a heart in response to human need, and entering the dialogue of diverse ideas, issues and traditions, by listening and speaking in the love of Christ.