

## Steve Goldstein

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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2011 10:55 PM  
**Attach:** Vital+AF8-Congregations+AF8-planning+AF8-guide-2-14-11.pdf  
**Subject:** Council topics for Sun Apr 3

I promised Ann to share a few candidate topics for nex Sun (Apr 3) Council meeting but I'm running well behind the power curve this week. I've been struck by a theme I've heard several times on the Dave Ramsey radio program about financial management and responsible living: "The difference between a dream and a goal is a plan." One of our major TUMC challenges in becoming a purpose rather than preference focused church is that we've had many dream and visions of what we'd like to do but struggle with converting them into specific, right-sized, achievable goals because we seem to fear putting our dreams onto paper as execution plans.

If we don't have any other major pressing issue(s) I thought we might base our meeting theme on parts of the Vital Congregations Planning Guide (pdf attached) being developed by the UMC. We can summarize the common attributes of a vital church (page 2) and then visit what it would take to courageously begin a congregational ministry plan (starts on page 4). This format should look familiar: it is similar if not identical to what's to be filled out in our annual church conference -- that we have yet to do for 2011. What we rarely succeed in doing is completing section C (vital church goals) and then documenting how we will actually execute what we've chosen in section C (actions).

I propose that we can use the Trustees as a pilot experience for Sunday's meeting because that committee has/ s series of 2011 dreams for our campus physical assets that they could share, and the Council can begin to define how those dreams could become a few tangible 2011 goals by creating an action plan -- involving tasks, priorities, order/schedule of execution, resource estimates, and then explore how those tasks can be accomplished. This is the piece of (re)vitalizing TUMC that our Council seems to miss, OR, if we are doing this in a number of areas, the goals and plans aren't shared across the Council members and socialized among the wider church membership.

If we don't as a church take this or a similar approach, how do we want to establish any purpose-focused goals for 2011 that are actually achievable?

Perhaps follow-on Council meetings can ask other committees to prepare their dreams and then work on how they can become goals.

So how does this draft agenda look:

Song: TBD (Mark?)

Opening Prayer

God Stories: How have we seen God at work since we last met?

Visit the "Vital Congregations Planning Guide" as a method for turning TUMC dreams into goals.

Trustees (Joe Holden) to present 2011 "dreams" and plans to turn them into goals

Other committees/chairs discuss their dreams that can begin a planning process

Other topics

Closing Prayer