

Comments at Oct 24 Council meeting: What messages did we experience in our prayers and fasting?

- We will not do what we did before
  - For last 2 years a smaller group selected good-sounding goals but resulted in no execution planning, minimal ownership, didn't explore why we wanted to accomplish the goals. We ended up with minimal investment in the church, similar goals both years, not a path by which TUMC can thrive. Whatever process we use for planning for 2011, we won't do this again.
- First thing – pay our apportionments in full each month (quote from Earl)
  - Tithing important. 10% of giving, donations, and fundraisers for each ministry should be directed to apportionments (note: pointed out later offline that this is not a legal practice in UMC!). We are \$39K behind payment schedule in 2010.
- Walk the campus to see if what you are seeing is what you want others (visitors) to see.
  - Is this the yard we want people to experience? Takes \_\_\_\_\_ to keep up campus. Construction trailer out front (St. Stephen) gives wr \_\_\_\_\_ pression. Go to a church that is well kept; members there love their church.
- Set goals for desired outcomes.
  - We should focus on the outcome of our activities; why we believe ministries are what we want to do.
- Spend some time healing this church from the inside
  - Church no longer feels like a family. Need a place to \_\_\_\_\_ me up" with love and spirit. In past happiness was contagious; we need to revitalize that.
- Go out in the community as teams to share what is happening at Trinity United Methodist Church
  - We have a great 10:30 service; we need to let community know what we're doing and what's going on in the church.
- We need more love – call on the Holy Spirit – give what you can
- Start caring about loving each other as family
  - The church is our family; we need to get past quarrels.
- Be passionate about whatever your spiritual gifts lead you in your ministry
  - Small groups can be used to identify passions, then go do them
- Look for untapped strengths
- Be open to receive the message when it comes
- Pray Seek Ask
- Remember our traditions and the base it creates.
  - We need more of a tradition to the base of the church. People have left because they miss what they used to have.
- Pray that our friends and family members will come back
- Christian growth through study by having a time set as \_\_\_\_\_ r study with the whole congregation
  - We need to strive toward a thriving church (not same thing as growth). People act as if there always has to be a choice: either this OR that. We're letting a division happen, e.g., the gray hairs vs. younger members. God is expecting us to get busy. We need to eliminate the line(s) between us.
- Give St Stephen Ministry a permanent home (Potter's Place?)
- Buy offices to the south and east of our property – put St Stephen and other outreach ministries in the mall area to the east (along Jones)

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- Provide job counseling; some more awesome ministry together
- Reach out to our neighbors
  - Opportunity is ripe for ministry to Hispanics
- Small group ministry “families”
- Start 4 groups per quarter
  - Pastor Mark to work with Linda to start 4 groups by end of year (?); expand to 8 groups by 2011
- Each group will start 1 small group by the end of the year
  - Discipleship elements include prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness. We need to be willing to participate in all of these. Need to be a disciple/ practice discipleship in order make others disciples of Christ (per our mission statement)

#### **Additional comments after Oct 24 meeting**

- Will our congregation eventually be just other ethnic groups and all the current members scattered to other congregations? Unspoken here is the fear of change. The Urban Academy hasn't really spoken up yet. Another LV congregation's Urban Academy influenced goal for next year: equal representation on committees of older and younger members (40 might be a good dividing line). Be sure that the composition is 50/50 male/female. Have a good mix of older and newer members of the congregation.
- I don't know who to talk to—and on Sunday, members leave as if there were a disease entrenched on campus.
- My sense is that there is a distinct difference between those who serve on committees (and by extension on the Church Council) and the “real” lines of authority. I've asked whose opinion is sought after; who has last say so on decisions; whose opinion matters.
- I wonder why the church does not wholeheartedly support the daycare/preschool program. It is, as Leslie has said, the best outreach program we could ever think of. Do we grudgingly support it? Why is that?
- Why is it that someone said earlier that we still need to heal?
- People generally are OK with where we are and are fearful of change. People seem to want the church to return to where it was when they were attracted to Trinity.
- Typically people are afraid of being judged and they don't want to be perceived as the ONLY ones to speak up. So many people seem to be leaving and they don't want their comments to chase others away. There is grieving taking place in our midst. Grief + change brings FEAR
- Consider re-reading The Missional Leader. Some ideas in it did not “take” when we studied it. A group of us might want to revisit it. We might also consider American Grace: <http://books.simonandschuster.com/American-Grace/David-E-Campbell/9781416566717> If any are interested, we have a volunteer to lead a discussion of this book.
- Contemporary Service: “How to Build and Grow.” Desired Outcome: That the fields will be ripe for the picking...The sanctuary will be filled beyond capacity with the Holy Spirit flying boldly...The room will be like a storm of God's love each and every service...People will know that they have had an encounter with God and will boldly go out into the world proclaiming the good news that Jesus Christ has risen in their hearts...