

## **Summary of the 2011 Charge Conference/ Cluster Conference**

On November 19, 2011 members of TUMC met together both as a group and in concert with other churches in the North District as part of a Charge Conference and Cluster Conference for the purpose of sharing prior year (2011) successes and challenges and for identifying goals for 2012 and plans for how to achieve them. The complete and detailed contents of our conference can be viewed on the Trinity UMC website ([www.tumclv.org](http://www.tumclv.org)) by clicking on the "Church Council Information" link on the homepage.

This article summarizes discussions we had on the above two topics: first, where we have been and what have we accomplished in 2011, and second, what our leadership has selected as goals for 2012 and how we might achieve them. The Church Council will continue action planning over the next several months and will be sharing with you what to expect, how you can play an integral part, and how we are doing. If you have questions, ask any of your friendly Council members.

## **"SHARING OUR 2011 MINISTRIES"**

1. Goals Met for 2011
  - Based upon DNA coaching and training materials, we achieved our goal of making specific goals that the church family is willing to passionately commit to achieving. On October 23, 2011 we agreed that "we will not do what we did before." For the last 2 years, a smaller group selected good-sounding goals; but resulted in no execution planning, minimal ownership, and didn't explore why we wanted to accomplish the goals. We ended up with minimal investment in the church, similar goals both years, but not a path by which TUMC can thrive.
  - Whatever process we use for planning for 2012, we won't do this again.
  - We increased our Small Group Ministry by 6 new groups.
  - We have "socialized" our contemporary service and enhanced its outreach.
  
2. Biggest Success in Disciple-Making
  - Our 6 new Small Groups are active in developing new relationships supporting discipleship.
  - We celebrated a 1 year anniversary of the Vietnamese Ministry we host at TUMC.
  - We are supporting a Hispanic Ministry.
  - We participated in Saturday food distribution to homeless.
  - We have had good success in discipleship training through our "Membership 101" classes for new and seasoned members wherein the basic tenets of Methodism are discussed.
  
3. Biggest Disappointment in Disciple-Making
  - Too few in our church family answer the call to serve. We continue to implement and even expand our ministries using a small group of "The Usual Suspects."
  - In an economically stressful time, we are failing to meet our Apportionment obligations even though our leadership has committed to do so.

## 4. What worked really well for us?

- We have continually increased our service to the hungry and homeless through our Society of St Stephen and Helping Hands Up Ministry. For ten months of 2011 (Jan - Oct), we have served 35,448 total meals. In 2010, 35,581 meals were provided, representing a 14% increase over the 31,182 meals provided in 2009, a 31% increase over the 27,185 meals provided in 2008 and an 89% increase over the 18,800 meals in 2007. In August we received a "2011 Three Square Agency Capacity Enhancement Grant."
- We have had good participation and community building through our "Membership 101" classes for new and seasoned members.
- We invited the community to an all church picnic, bringing back many members who have not participated in all church fellowship lately, bridging the gap between the age groups; spotlighting the gifts and talents of the "Disciples"; honoring the work of the leadership in bringing solar energy onto our campus; igniting the development of the welcoming team leadership and bringing in one new member.
- Two fundraisers boosted our ability to pay apportionment and brought intergenerational teams together in Christian fellowship and discipleship.

## 5. Where do we need help from each other?

- We would like to explore combining ministry programs struggling for resources and/or participation to enhance strength.
  - Youth development
  - Food bank ministry
- We would like to benchmark successful processes and ministries of other churches and benefit from lessons learned in successfully addressing challenges we face.

## Goals for 2012

The five measures below have been identified as common elements of vital congregation, that is, ones that are thriving. More information and the resources we used to establish these are available on the web at [www.UMVitalCongregations.org](http://www.UMVitalCongregations.org). Each congregation in the North District was expected to bring their set of realistic goals to the Cluster Conference.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<a href="#">Avg. Weekly Attendance</a>	251	273	329	275	235	227	232
<a href="#">Professions of Faith</a>	15	7	9	22	2	7	10
<a href="#">Small Groups</a>				26	33	10	14
<a href="#">Members in Mission</a>	0	0	0	0	9	36	40

<a href="#">Dollars Given to Mission</a>	93462	99765	56890	99173	105581	85,758	<b>86,636</b>
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## Plans for 2012

### 1. Attendance

Established teams and/or LUVs at Trinity United Methodist Church will:

- From each weekly attendance register/cards, send cards of welcome to guests, followed by a phone call from the LUVs/team members the second visit, and a friendship gift/visit after the fourth visit.
- Design new guest attendance cards/registers with the ability to record name, address, phone number, email, number of visits, and other pertinent information from guests. Each guest will receive a gift from the church with a new brochure which includes services, times, upcoming events, small groups and other opportunities in which they might participate.
- Train all church members in Circle of Ten and Rule of 3 welcoming strategies. Train ushers to recognize guests and identify them to inside greeters (Hospitality Specialists). Train inside greeters and folks to invite and accompany guests for social time after/before service to Cafe Trinity.

### 2. Profession of faith

- The Pastor and the Director of Leadership Development will hold Membership 101 classes for newcomers, uncommitted attendees, regular members, and interested guests.
- Bible study Life Groups (small groups) will be provided for all ages. Intentional analysis of Sunday school curriculum and cross generational grouping studies will take place.
- Under the auspices of the Welcoming Ministry campaign, the Church Council groups will work on interior and exterior signage, first impression renovation, mapping, newcomer-friendly worship bulletins, website enhancements, and developing a Welcoming Center for Sundays.

### 3. Members in Mission

- All members will participate in at least one mission event at the church or in the community; i.e., Society of St. Stephen's Ministry, WEAP, Helping Hand Up, Homeless Meals, Hats and Hands, Assistance League, Opportunity Village, Goodwill stores, Salvation Army Drives, and others.
- Each member will invite at least one guest to attend special events at the Trinity Church; following this up with an invitation to a Sunday or Wednesday service or a small group invitation.
- Trinity United Methodist Church will piggy-back on Education-planned studies for each religious holiday to reach out to the community with available services, recreation, and hospitality.

### 4. Small groups

- Trinity will increase the number of members participating in Life Groups (small groups). The church will add four groups in 2012 and utilize welcoming ministry techniques.
- Additional rounds of small group leadership trainings will be held.
- New and existing small groups leaders and members will be included in newsletters and services for their study, out-reach, and missions.

#### 5. Apportionments

- Trinity United Methodist Church will make significant, focused attempts to ensure that Apportionments will be paid. If and when monthly shortfalls occur, finance and Church Council will meet immediately to plan fund-raisers or projects to "catch-up" as quickly as possible.