

Vision Proposal for Yorkminster Presbyterian Church
Presented by
The Long Range Visioning Team

Affirmations

As we share the vision of where God is leading Yorkminster Presbyterian Church, we feel it is important to affirm the wonderful ministry that goes on in the church every day. Yorkminster is faithful in:

- Being a caring, nurturing community where people are growing in their faith.
- Offering traditional forms of worship and music ministry.
- Maintaining a strong commitment to children and youth.
- Upholding a commitment to biblically based Reformed Theology.
- Spending time building relationships as a body of believers.
- Promoting active and relational participation in missions.
- Supporting ministries through faithful stewardship and good leadership.
- Employing good organization in the use of our God given resources of time, talents and finances.

There are additional areas of ministry that are not specifically mentioned. This should not be construed to mean that those ministries do not have importance. This vision affirms our core values and also focuses on where we believe God is leading us in future ministries.

It also acknowledges that the pursuit of the recommendations contained within will lead Yorkminster Presbyterian Church to serve God and the community in new and exciting ways. In some instances, the existing ministries of our church may be expanded. In other instances, altogether new and different missions will be embraced. Also, we may not be able to realize our full vision and continue all of the ministry programs that we currently support.

The vision will provide context for the leadership of session and committee chairs in making decisions concerning new and existing ministries. It will also help in reprioritizing existing ministries, when necessary; in order to target the resources we have to accomplish the recommendations presented.

Vision

Yorkminster Presbyterian Church exists to Love God and Love One another through faithful discipleship in Jesus Christ.

We measure our lives by the Great Commandment:

... 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 'This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39)

We measure our ministry by the Great Commission:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The following is the vision to accomplish this.

Spiritual Leadership

The vision is to enhance the culture of our leadership. As disciples we must strive to come together to seek God's will first through

- 1) study of scripture
- 2) praying with one another
- 3) Spending time in Christian fellowship.

Our leaders in the church need to model this in their lives and ministries.

Recommendation

- *It is recommended that there be a re-emphasis on training of officers, committee chairs and moderators of the session and diaconate in the following areas:
 - o *principles of incorporating bible study, prayer & fellowship in our meetings*
 - o *rules of order**
- *It is recommended that the elements of study fellowship and prayer be increased in the session and diaconate meetings.*
- *It is recommended that a group be formed of ordained lay persons that are currently not sitting on the session or diaconate. This "college of officers" will be enlisted to help promote and support the vision recommendations.*
- *It is recommended that the session re-visit the current mission statement to make it more clear and concise and to make any changes needed to reflect this vision.*

Teaching Discipleship

At any given time, our congregation is made up of people that have been in church since birth as well as people who are brand new to faith. Building on the strength of our education program, we need to provide educational opportunities for persons at all stages of spiritual growth. There should be an intentional focus on creating a comprehensive curriculum that would walk a person through the stages of discipleship. The following class types are an example of this concept:

- Christianity 101: Inquirer's / New Christian studies – teaching the basics of prayer, worship, scripture, Christian community and foundational beliefs
- Christianity 201: Disciple Builder – in depth studies with a variety of topics that focus on the commitment to being a disciple
- Christianity 301: Community builder/Transforming Christian – studies that focuses on preparing people to do ministry in the larger community – small group leading, sharing faith, leading ministry outside the church walls (studies, service projects, etc)
 - Transform members into missionaries/disciples
 - Preparing people to share faith

Recommendation:

- *It is recommended that the Christian education committee, along with relevant staff members create a cohesive and comprehensive curriculum for developing disciples from basic Christianity through outward focused mission.*
 - *Retired ministers / outside speakers can be used as additional resources for this initiative*

Evangelism

It is envisioned that we would challenge ourselves as a congregation to become prepared, confident and active in sharing our faith inside and outside the church.

- To create intentional opportunities to model and teach the sharing of personal faith stories
- To love outsiders enough to take to them the message of Christ.
- To help the congregation to understand that evangelism is NOT a bad word.

Our leaders in the church need to model this in their lives and ministries.

Recommendation:

- *It is recommended that the Evangelism Team create a training program for modeling the sharing of personal faith stories, and a process to identify and coordinate opportunities for sharing those stories in a manner consistent with our Reformed Theology and individual spiritual gifts.*
- *It is recommended that the Evangelism Team look to engage the congregation in reaching out to particular groups in the community, for example the military, college students, young adults, and elderly/shut ins.*

Worship

Worship in the context of an authentic faith community is one of the strengths with which Yorkminster has been blessed. The vision is to capitalize upon this strength and to create an additional worship service. This third worship service will be visibly different in its forms and styles from our already existing services. At the same time, it will be grounded in the Reformed Tradition and so foster equally deep, authentic worship. By adding a third worship service we aim to better reach the larger community as well as benefit our existing congregation.

Recommendation:

- *The Focus Groups affirmed our current worship and spoke of a desire for continuity. We also heard a desire for alternative styles of worship to emphasize attracting new people to worship and participation. In response to this we recommend the immediate formulation of a task force to explore a third worship service as another door into Reformed worship.*

Mission/Service

Building on our strength of “hands on” mission, and utilizing the resources God has entrusted us with, it is envisioned that we would open the doors of our facilities and reach out to the community in the following ways:

- Focusing on utilizing the Fellowship Center for local ministry relevant to community needs
- Open up the Fellowship Center for limited use by outside groups for a fee.

Recommendation:

- *It is recommended that a task force be appointed to identify and develop additional mission opportunities specific to the fellowship center. (This task force needs to coordinate with the local outreach committee.)*
- *It is recommended that a task force be **empowered** to review and update all policies related to the use of fellowship center.*
- *It is recommended that personnel create a plan realigning tasks of existing staff in order to focus the appropriate resources on coordination and administration of the use of the fellowship center.*

These initiatives will be coordinated with the other church sponsored events and ministries that utilize the center.

A Caring, Nurturing Community

As we grow, it is envisioned that the church would maintain the closeness that is a defining attribute of Yorkminster. In order to accomplish this, we need to provide every individual with a way to build relationships within the congregation. We should direct our attention to the following areas in order to add to existing opportunities:

- Small Groups
- Older adults, shut-ins, individuals with special needs
- Guests/new members
- Young adults

Recommendation:

- *It is recommended that the aforementioned “college of officers” be organized minister to these groups of focus.*

- *It is recommended that the existing shepherding concept be expanded to include individuals that have a heart for this type of ministry, and not be confined to just ordained officers on the session or diaconate.*

- *It is recommended that the session and diaconate promote within themselves and other ministry leaders the creation of opportunities for relationship building and spiritual growth, including the elements of fellowship, study, and prayer. It should be noted that creating these opportunities does not necessarily mean the creation of new ministries or activities. It should mean ensuring these elements are present in existing ministries.*

Identity

It is envisioned that Yorkminster have a positive, recognizable identity in the community. We want to become known for sharing God’s love through authentic worship and caring ministry.

Recommendation

- *It is recommended that the composition of the existing communications team expand to include two functions:*
 - *Information technology*
 - *Communication of information*

- *It is recommended that the communications committee create a visual identity that communicates our vision and intentionally associate that identity with our missions and ministries.*

- *It is also recommended the communications committee create as plan of actionable ways we can intentionally advertise / get the word out through various mediums (the website, newspaper, television, billboards, mailings, etc).*

Implementation

This vision was designed to be implemented within the next three to five years. Specific and detailed plans with timings should be created for each recommendation and presented to the session. A vision advocate should be appointed to help the leadership drive the vision and measure progress. The vision will be regularly reviewed at leadership meetings. It will be the compass by which all initiatives are measured. In order to keep the congregation involved and informed, the vision should be consistently made visible in our buildings, publications and communications. Lastly, it is recommended that the implementation of this vision be evaluated in a formal way within 18-24 months of adoption.

Faithfully,

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