

## Vision Committee

### *How do we put together a group to oversee our process?*

As a local church works through the process of developing a clear vision and long-range ministry plan, it is important to have a group to oversee this work. While it is not their job to define the vision, it is their responsibility to lead the process and help discern the God's leading for the whole church.

Below are some guidelines (not rigid rules) for establishing your Vision Committee and a list of responsibilities that will help to define their work. In addition, there is a plan for initiating the group.

#### **The Visioning and Long-Range Planning Process:**

- A prayerful discernment process in which we realign our Body with God's call on our common life and focus ourselves on God's mission for us.
- A community building process in which we call people into a deeper relationship with Jesus, a stronger commitment to one another, and more active service in our world.
- In this process, we will clarify our sense of mission (why this church exists) and our vision for the future.
- We will look carefully at our community—both our fellowship and the community around us—to assess the real needs we are called to meet.
- We will look critically at what we do and how we do it and agree to make changes that will help us become the people God intends and fulfill the ministry we have been given.
- We will work to be responsive to the Spirit and intentional in our planning.

#### **The Vision Committee:**

- Five to seven spiritually mature, active members of the church, including at least one member of the pastoral team.
- Comprised of individuals who sense a call to serve in this capacity, will commit adequate time to the whole process, evidence the ability to both listen to others and attend to Christ's leading. Also, it is important to create a community that represents the diversity found in the whole church. Finally, the people who serve on this group ought to love the church, be willing to change, be courageous enough to call others to change, and be committed to prayer.
- Will be led by a clerk with gifts, time and energy for such a task. This person will also serve as the primary contact for any NWYM "coach" who will assist in the process.
- The Vision Committee will be selected by the Elders and approved by the Business Meeting prior to beginning their work.
- They will be responsible to bring a final recommendation to the Business Meeting for approval. Along the way, they will gather input from the local church and provide regular updates and clear communication about progress.