



Aspiration | Sharing our Gifts



We aspire to be a congregation that gives to others by sharing the gifts that God has provided us – time, talent, and treasure. We will develop new church stewards and increase our capacity to share God’s message with each other and within our community.

Goal | Increase the number of members who serve the church in meaningful volunteer roles.

We will:

- connect individual member interests to church needs,
- gather, record and follow up on members’ volunteer pledges, and
- identify and define needed volunteer roles within the church.

Goal | Build a network of leaders across the congregation to work in partnership with staff.

We will:

- distinguish and celebrate the leaders of our church,
- define and communicate leadership roles and commitments, and
- support leadership with continuing education for staff and lay leadership.

Goal | Renew a culture of generous sharing of financial resources.

We will:

- increase visibility of some expenses to help members understand the value of church services offered, and
- educate new members about financial giving and our church budget.

Goal | Expand our commitment to mission and service by supporting social justice in our community and world.

We will:

- continue to understand the emerging needs within our community,
- deepen and strengthen the church’s relationship with Esther,
- initiate the process of become an immigrant welcoming congregation, and
- increase the number of members that participate in mission and service projects.

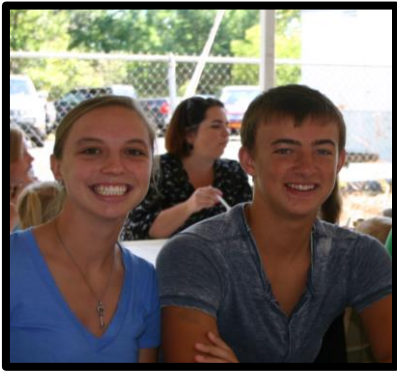
Goal | Reach out to members of our community who have not yet heard our message of welcome and inclusion.

We will:

- deepen relationships with community partners who share our inclusive nature,
- challenge and train the congregation to promote the church with friends and neighbors,
- examine how the congregation can become more ethnically diverse, and
- reach out to the church’s neighborhood.



Aspiration | Engaging the Next Generation



We aspire to attract and engage increasingly diverse youth, families, and young adults in our church family. Meeting the spiritual needs of the next generation through music, worship and programming is critical to the vibrancy and long-term health of our congregation.

Goal | Create new opportunities for young adults to be involved in the life of the church.

We will:

- establish a young adult ministry team,
- communicate to young adults in the places they are and in the format they are comfortable with,
- utilize technology to enhance young adults' interactions with First Congregational, and
- increase involvement of youth and young adults in ministry teams and church leadership.

Goal | Explore worship and music models that appeal to and engage multiple generations.

We will:

- offer an alternative worship experience that is not focused around Sunday morning at church,
- incorporate nontraditional music styles into worship,
- provide alternative styles of music at events outside of worship, and
- increase the use of technology within worship.

Goal | Provide exceptional nursery, children and youth ministry programming.

We will:

- actively implement and reassess YMA and CMA goals
- offer a Sunday morning youth bible study,
- engage youth in the development of new programming, and
- offer meaningful opportunities for children to gather outside of Sunday worship,

Goal | Coordinate smooth transitions through children, youth, and young adult ministry programming to ensure young people are not lost as they enter a new life stage.

We will:

- intentionally maintain connections with First Congregational confirmands,
- create a communication piece that shows the progression of faith teaching that takes place within CYF ministries,
- initiate mentoring opportunities within children and youth programming, and
- develop a tween ministry program for grades five and six.



Aspiration | Deepening Relationships with Each Other



We aspire to be a strong faith family that builds meaningful, supportive relationships among its members. We will create opportunities for fellowship and enhance the engagement with members and our community to open ourselves to all the people of God.

Goal | Deepen connections and fellowship across generations within our faith family.

We will:

- utilize interactive worship to meet and learn more about each other,
- utilize technology to build relationships within our faith family, and
- enlist leadership for hospitality ministries.

Goal | Create opportunities for affinity groups (i.e. age, life stage, interests, etc) to deepen their relationships with one another within our faith family.

We will:

- identify member interests and utilize that information to create connections between members, and
- assess affinity groups to determine those that are currently underserved by programming in the church.

Goal | Explore new ways to use our church space for fellowship.

We will:

- investigate how to create a more warm and welcoming narthex and sanctuary,
- review usage of Fellowship Hall and Common Grounds to better align with the fellowship needs of the congregation, and
- work towards improved accessibility in CYF wing.

Goal | Shepherd new members more fully into the life of the congregation.

We will:

- improve congregational confidence in welcoming new and potential members,
- welcome and reach out to new families who may be interested in CYF ministries, and
- focus hospitality ministries on integration and involvement of new members.