

The Summons of the Spirit

The Long-Range Plan of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church Lakewood, Ohio 2009



Our Vision

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will be a community of hospitality, hope, and healing for all seekers of faith, in order to bring the light of Christ to Cleveland's west side and the wider world.

Our Mission & Values

Our purpose as a church is to strengthen the relationship between individuals and God through the professed love and belief in Jesus Christ, and in doing God's work to create the kingdom of heaven on earth. Through thoughtful prayer and discernment, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church has identified the following core missions and values on which to focus its collective time, talent and resources:

1. *Mission* – Saint Peter's Episcopal Church will grow where it is planted, ministering the Gospel in the City of Lakewood and Cleveland's west side and suburbs.
2. *Worship* – We highly prize our tradition of classical Anglican worship and music, and commit to keeping it at the core of our identity and practice.
3. *Servant Ministry* – We are committed to and energized by serving those in need in the community and the wider world. We remain open to creative involvement in new forms of outreach and servant ministry.
4. *Community* – We desire to strengthen our sense of authentic, meaningful and caring fellowship and strive to be imaginative, flexible and creative to form a healthy sense of community among our highly dispersed membership.
5. *Forming Confident Disciples* – We desire to continually grow in our knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, our faith tradition and how to put our faith in action. We commit to being an active place of faith formation and discernment for all ages.
6. *Space for our Ministries* – We value the history and architectural beauty of our worship space, and we will preserve it. We desire to improve our overall physical space to achieve greater accessibility, hospitality, energy efficiency and safety to make it more suitable for our worship and ministry for years to come.

Our Mission to the Community

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church will grow where it is planted, ministering the Gospel in the city of Lakewood and the West Side of Cleveland. We are committed to staying in this place, and committed to serving our community.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will ensure the continued stability and success of Saint Peter's Child Care Center. The Center will be separately incorporated, but not separated from the mind and heart of the parish. We will endeavor to strengthen our common mission to minister to the working families of our community.
- 2) We will intentionally reach out to the growing young adult population of our community.
- 3) We will be sensitive and open to the changing ethnic makeup of our community. We commit ourselves to continuing growth as an open, welcoming, and inclusive community.
- 4) We will be open to discussion with diocesan leadership, and help to strengthen the overall Episcopal presence and witness in the western communities of Cleveland
- 5) We will enhance our congregation's connection to the greater Episcopal Diocese through education. This will allow us to leverage the programs, resources, experience and knowledge of our wider Episcopal family.

Action steps:

- 1) The Child Care Center will be separately incorporated. The new Board of Directors and the Vestry will establish, and refresh annually, a Parish-Child Care Relations Team. The Team will be tasked with facilitating shared programs and communications, and ensuring harmony between the two entities.
- 2) The Rector will establish a Young Adults task force to imagine and oversee an intentional outreach to young adults in our community. This effort could benefit from having a paid staff person (clergy or lay) to help shepherd this ministry. Staffing should be considered in coordination with Action step #1 on page 7.
- 3) The Adult Spirituality and Formation Team will develop programs to help parishioners understand the changing ethnic and religious demographics of our community, and to develop sensitivity and openness.
- 4) The Clergy along with the Anglican Friends and Partners Team will communicate with Diocesan leadership that we are available to discuss their future plans for Episcopal presence on the west side of Cleveland. The Team will report back to the Vestry, who will consider further actions in this regard.
- 5) The Anglican Friends and Partners Team will investigate methods to enhance knowledge of and partnership with the Diocese of Ohio, the national Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

Our Worship Life

Saint Peter's has a long history of classical Anglican worship. We highly prize this tradition, and commit to keeping it at the core of our identity and practice. With that tradition at the heart of what we do, we are open to experience and experiment with different ways of worshipping. We are also open to reaching back to earlier forms of worship in order to remember our heritage. In all things, we are committed to excellence in liturgy and music.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will continue a strong musical program, centered on the classical Anglican repertoire. We will, from time to time, draw upon other resources and traditions of music (ethnic, contemporary, jazz, etc.) to enrich our core experience.
- 2) We will, from time to time, use earlier forms of worship such as Rite I Eucharist and Sunday Morning Prayer.
- 3) We will, from time to time, and with the consent of the Ordinary, use new forms of liturgy such as "Enriching Our Worship" or the prayer books of other Anglican provinces.
- 4) We will continue to support music training for children (Choristers) and young adults (Choral Scholars).
- 5) We will continually strive to make our worship more welcoming and "user-friendly."

Action steps:

- 1) The Rector will appoint a Liturgical Team to propose and execute ways to achieve the above objectives. The Team shall present an initial plan prior to Lent 2009, and continue to refine that plan annually into the future
- 2) The Director of Music, and other liturgical paid staff, shall be hired with the above objectives explicitly stated, and subsequent evaluation of performance shall be based upon them.

Servant Ministry

St. Peter's congregation is very interested in and energized by servant ministry to the community and larger world. We are involved, directly and indirectly, with our time, talent, and treasure, in many activities that serve others. We commit to continue our outreach in these ways, and to remain open to creative involvement in new forms of servant outreach ministry.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) In order to strengthen our outreach to the wider community, we will invest more of our time and talent in support of St. Peter's Child Care Center ministry.
- 2) We will continue to make our building available to outside groups and organizations.
- 3) We will continue and grow our partnership with the Lakewood Christian Service Center.
- 4) We will continue our monthly Community Meal.
- 5) We will continue and strengthen our relationship with Watterson-Lake Elementary School.
- 6) We will continue and enhance our Monthly Outreach Focus program. We will continue to encourage loose plate giving to these ministries. We will be more intentional about educating parishioners about these ministries and inviting gifts of time and talent as well.
- 7) We will support parishioners who desire to participate in foreign or domestic mission work.

Action steps:

- 1) The Outreach and Servant Ministry Team will review the objectives above and propose a plan for the future Servant Ministries of the parish by June of 2009 and annually thereafter.
- 2) The Rector and Vestry will develop building use guidelines and policies.
- 3) The Outreach and Servant Ministry Team will investigate Diocesan supports for mission work and outreach.

Creating Community

We desire to strengthen our sense of authentic, meaningful, and caring fellowship. The members of Saint Peter's face several challenges: 1.) we gather together from nearly a dozen different municipalities on the west side of Cleveland; 2.) we are busy people who encounter one another infrequently apart from Sunday worship. We will strive to be imaginative, flexible, and creative to form a healthy sense of community among our highly dispersed membership.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will build caring connections among parishioners.
- 2) We will explore and implement the technological means to facilitate communication among parishioners.
- 3) We will establish a monthly Sunday morning parish breakfast to provide regular informal fellowship.
- 4) We will enhance ways to bring new members into the life of the parish.
- 5) We will explore imaginative ways to create and nurture a sense of community in the context of a dispersed and busy congregation.

Action steps:

- 1) The Pastoral Care Team and Rector will establish and grow a system of neighborhood-based pastoral care teams to assist and enhance the pastoral ministry of the clergy.
- 2) The Parish Life Team will propose to the Vestry a plan to achieve the remaining objectives by June of 2009.
- 3) We will continue to enhance and support the "Explore and Connect" program.

Growing and Forming Confident Disciples

Parishioners of all ages need continually to grow in their confident knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, our faith tradition, and how to put faith into action in their lives. Often new members of Saint Peter's come to us with little background in the Episcopal Church or the Anglican tradition. Saint Peter's commits to being an active place of faith formation for all ages.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will make the Christian formation of children and youth one of our highest priorities. We will seek to deal creatively with the intensifying demands upon young people and their families.
- 2) We will provide a range of meaningful formation and discernment opportunities for adults to learn about and grow in their faith.
- 3) We will continue and expand our collaborative efforts with other local congregations, and with the diocese, to provide formation opportunities for all ages.

Action steps:

- 1) Enhancing programs for adult faith formation and formation for children, youth and families will likely require additional paid staffing. The Rector, Vestry, Finance Team and Stewardship Team should collaborate in a process to identify the staffing need(s) (lay or clergy, full-time/part-time) to oversee these programs and seek financial support from the parish and other sources. This person would work with the appropriate ministry teams in achieving our goals.
- 2) The Youth and Children's Ministries and Adult Spiritual Life teams will create plans for the future life of these ministries and present these to the Vestry by June of 2009 and annually thereafter.

Re-Creating Space for our Ministries

We value the history and architectural beauty of our worship space, and we will preserve it. We will make our aging physical plant adequate for the ministries we will conduct in our second century. We desire to improve our physical space to achieve greater accessibility, hospitality, energy efficiency, and safety, and to make it more appropriate for all kinds of ministry.

To achieve this goal:

- 1) We will move toward achieving full handicapped accessibility in our physical spaces.
- 2) We will renovate our buildings and infrastructure to bring them up to code and achieve greater energy efficiency
- 3) We will provide or renovate Child Care spaces so as to bring them into full compliance with all applicable regulations, and to make them brighter and more pleasant.
- 4) We will provide facilities to make more effective use of space for all of our adult, youth, and children's programs.

Action steps:

- 1) The Buildings and Grounds Team will recommend to the Vestry a list of additional renovation needs and desires.
- 2) The Vestry will prioritize these projects, develop strategies and goals, and proceed to plan a Capital Fundraising Campaign to achieve them. This may be one campaign or a phased multi-year effort.
- 3) The Campaign concept will be presented to the 2009 Annual Meeting for comment and affirmation.
- 4) We will demolish the house we own on West Clifton Boulevard and construct a new parking area including the state required playground space.