



Dear Church family,

'It' came to me as a poem in a dream. The world was full off hurting, lonely, people. Everything was a landscape of grey and sadness. Then, as if turning the page of a book, sunshine began to burst through and a vision appeared. It was a vision of something more. More than the just scrapping by, dragging here and there, no joy, no love existence that most of the world knows. It was a vision of how we, this church, are offering something more than what the world offers. We are offering Christ. We are offering something so much more! These are the words the dream revealed to me...

We are more than a charity
We are more than a hand-out
We are more than a social club
We are more than just Sunday morning
We are more than a building

We are the hands and feet of God in the world
We are disciples growing deeper in God's word
We are loved and forgiven, and free to love and forgive
We are singing and praising, fueled by the Holy Spirit
We are a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year outpost for God
We are the church of Jesus Christ
We are Jones Memorial United Methodist Church
We are the changed hearts than are changing the world.

As I woke up, I couldn't write the words fast enough!

The world is waiting. Most important, Jesus is waiting. As a world, we can no longer afford to sit in darkness. Our time to shine the light is now! So, it is with great excitement and joy that we present our new church structure and officers. We are aligning our structure to mirror our Mission: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world."

As we live into this vision, please understand that we are a work in progress. I am reminded of the saying: The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. We will have to figure some things out as we go along and will probably make mistakes along the way. So, I pray that we approach this phase of our ministry as an adventure! Adventures are full of surprises, unexpected situations, and can be a lot of fun. I firmly believe that becoming more intentional about making disciples for Christ, will please God. In the end, that is the goal of the adventure; that God is pleased with what we do with all the blessings we have been given.

So...get ready to hear *Celebrate! Connect! Contribute!* A lot! It is our process to accomplish our mission. *Celebrate! Connect! Contribute!* It is the means by which we will offer something more to the world. *Celebrate! Connect! Contribute!* Let the adventure begin.

With great love,

Pastor Staci Current

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

True Discipleship: “Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:6)

“Go And Make Disciples...Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”:

The great commission is the primary objective of the Church today. Jesus outlined our mission as disciples: to develop other men and women into disciples. Discipleship should be at the forefront of our efforts. Everything we do, say and teach should be considered as we ask, “How will this help us make disciples?”

Our Plan for Discipleship: The Three C's

Celebrate!

Celebrate God's Presence...

Our worship service, prayer meetings, and visitations teams are designed for you to connect to God in a real and personal way. Thus, we place a high priority powerful prayer, engaging music, and inspired proclamation of the word.

Connect!

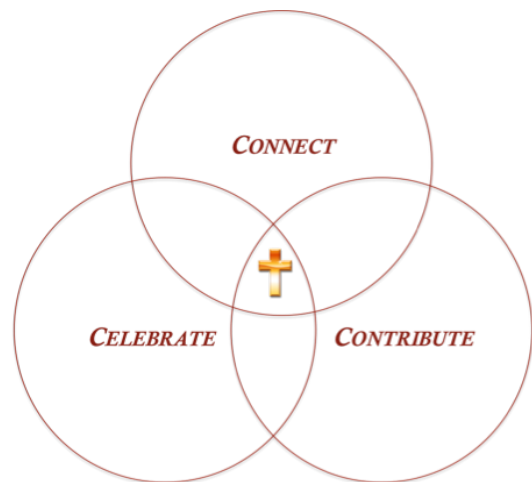
Connect to God's Word and God's Children...

We also believe that people need connect to others and that spiritual growth happens in biblical community. Our Bible study classes and age-level ministries are designed to place you in an environment where people learn together and care for one another.

Contribute!

Contribute to God's Kingdom...

We have a strong conviction that all Jones Memorial UMC should connect to ministry. Serving is vital for your spiritual growth, and you have the honor of contributing to the body of Christ through offering your gifts of time, talent and tithe.



The Process

In order to offer a clear and intentional path to get on the journey of discipleship we are realigning our church structure somewhat and placing our complete focus on our mission of making disciples.

The process is designed with the end in mind. At the end of the day, we pray to have a membership teeming with growing disciples of Jesus Christ who are deeply rooted in God's word, true worshippers of God's presence, and generous hearts who bring light, healing, and hope into the world. Our thinking is that if we are routinely engaged in celebrating God's presence, connecting with God's word and God's children, and contributing your time, talent, and tithe to God's kingdom, then we would be doing all within our power to grow as disciples. Many of us are already engaged in this process. For example, you may already regularly attend worship and prayer meetings, attend bible study, and volunteer your time and tithe to the church. This is a clear example of someone who is actively engaged in becoming a disciple of Christ. Although, discipleship can often happen organically, it is our desire to be intentional about making disciples. Truly, it is the only reason we exist. Jesus gave us our work assignment. Our mission is to go out into all of the world...and make disciples for him. ***Let's get busy!***

QUESTIONS?

How does this affect our Church Structure?

It actually calls us back to our true Methodist roots. According to the discipline of the United Methodist Church, a local church can organize itself to best serve the local context. We are using the Council on Ministry/Administrative Board Model as articulated in the 1992 Book of Discipline.

What is the role of the Council on Ministries and Administrative Board?

The Administrative Board and Council on Ministries work together in concert to lead the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Council on Ministries is responsible for keeping our process of disciple making clear and all ministry areas focused on our mission. The Administrative Board is charged with making certain that our building, staff, and all other administrative areas are functioning optimally to enable ministry to happen. Both teams work together to advance the mission.

Why do we have Celebrate, Connect, and Contribute Chairs?

In a congregation the size of ours, it is essential that we organize ourselves in a way that allows ministry to happen and not get bottle-necked. When all ministry areas have to report to the Pastor on every aspect of their work, it slows down the process tremendously. Therefore, the Celebrate, Connect, Contribute Chairs and Co-Chairs along with our Council on Ministries Chair and Project Manager will meet regularly and be in continuous dialogue with the Pastor to be certain that all ministry areas are on mission. This new structure also allows ministry areas to have greater support from the chairs and co-chairs in their endeavors.

Why is my ministry area a part of Celebrate or Connect or Contribute?

Each ministry area in our church has a focus, which falls under one of the three C's. We have organized the three C areas to include ministries that share a common focus. For example: all the groups that relate to Connect share a focus on groups of people coming together to grow as a part of a community. The emphasis is placed on sharing God's word, support,

encouragement, and accountability with others. The other two C's are organized in the same manner.

Why are we doing this?

We are striving to get better at making disciples for Jesus Christ. This mission is the reason why the Church exists. Celebrate, Connect, Contribute is an effort to intentionally allow our hearts to be changed, shaped, and molded by Christ so that we might change the world.

What is the United Methodist basis for the three C's?

Founded on Jesus' blueprint for discipleship, John Wesley developed a simple plan for maturing and equipping the saints. Wesley said, "The Church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples." Accordingly, making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is the mission statement of the denomination of the United Methodist Church.

What is the biblical basis for the three C's?

Jesus commanded us to: "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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19,20)

How does this affect the activities that are planned as part of the Church Calendar?

It is our hope that everything we do as a church advances the mission. All of our events and activities should be planned with the goal of making disciples for Jesus Christ. Naturally, many events will emphasize one of the three C's more than others. For example, a bible study will be a 'Connect' activity. Optimally, it would also have elements that include celebrate (perhaps beginning with devotion) and contribute (discussing ways in which the lesson calls us to make a difference in the world). **Note:** While Special Sundays primarily focus on 'Celebrate,' they should also have elements of all three C's.

For further support with planning and guidance, please contact your **Three Cs Chair**

Council On Ministries

Chair, Gwen Wade
Project Manager, Cynthia Strickland

CELEBRATE

Bob Williams, Chair
Martha McClain, Co-Chair

Funerals/Repasts: Robert Williams

Greeters/Parking: Tosca Lee

Music Department:

Jubilee Choir: Gwen Wade
UVOJ: Ernestine Clark

Prayer Ministry: Theresa M. Jiggetts

Ushers: Vera Hollingsworth

Visitation: Lay Leaders & Speakers

Witness: Gail Toliver

Worship Design Team: Pastor Staci

CONNECT

Marcie Byrde, Chair
Bertha Waterfield, Co-Chair

Archives: Dorothy Coleman

Age Level: Erma Cobb
(*Youth, Young Adults, Wesleyans, etc.*)

Education: Michelle Harris

**G.O.D. (Great Out-Doors) Hiking
Ministry:** Auria Styles

New Members: Marcie Byrde

Stewardesses: Josephine Robinson

UMM: Emmett Cobb

UMW: Nina Richey Brown

CONTRIBUTE

Angela Brown, Chair
Larry Hollingsworth, Co-Chair

Beyond the Walls: Marcie Byrde

Food Pantry: Betty Stallworth

Health Ministry:

HEAL Wellness: Angela Berry
Parish Nurses: Ellen Haynes &
Glenda Patterson

Jamboree: Rozelle Lee

Political Action: Angela Brown

Stewardship: Michon Caton

Student Aid: Gerald Jones

Wednesday Lunch: Ellen Haynes

Administrative Board

Chair, Anna Geter

Members: Admin Board Secretary, Treasurer, Co-Lay Leaders, Finance Chair, Financial Secretaries Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair, Trustee Board Chair, Communications Coordinator, Council on Ministries Chair, and Council on Ministries Project Manager.