

Shared Ministry Strategic Plan 2010-2015

Mission

The United Methodist congregations of Bethel, Caldwell, and St. James come together in Shared Ministry to create an intentional, cooperative framework for a wider spectrum of ministries that can be done better together! These include:

Worship
Mission
Spiritual Formation
Education
Staffing
Music
Youth and Children's Ministries

Vision

Shared Ministry within the next two to five years will become a vibrant area/cluster ministry that shares and integrates programming, where one pastoral and administrative staff team serves multiple congregations under an oversight administrative council, with each church retaining its own name and governing board.

Guiding Principles and Values

Shared Ministry utilizes the strengths of each congregation and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to expand the Word of God throughout our communities. This is demonstrated by an ongoing commitment to the following:

Acceptance:

- We accept and welcome everyone.

Worship/Music:

- We value well-organized and meaningful worship services in both traditional and contemporary styles, where scripture and music apply to everyday life.
- We believe in a strong, well-done music ministry, which includes choral and instrumental music.
- We value the power of prayer and the importance of Christian education.

Mission/Outreach:

- We value the call to serve, to be a witness to our faith, and believe that God is at work in our lives.
- We value being a tangible, valued presence in our communities.
- We value mission at home and abroad.

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Talents/Leadership:

- We believe in sharing our leadership talents.
- We value a sense of humor.

Loving Relationships:

- We believe in and value friendly, loving, and lasting relationships within our church families.
- We offer a welcoming space and hospitality for visitors and members.
- We offer family-friendly facilities and activities.
- We encourage each other in our faith walk.

Facility Location:

- We value the location and landmark status of our churches.

Transparency:

- We value accountability, acceptance, and transparency in all our endeavors.

Strategic Goals and Objectives

(Listed in order of priority)

1. Increase activities and programs that will provide on-going **spiritual formation** and growth with multi-generational participation.
 - 1.a. Develop a strong men's ministry where work and leadership skills are shared and youth are mentored through service to all involved churches.
 - 2.a. Establish a combined youth group which includes fun/social time in mission-oriented activities.
 - 3.a. Develop both long and short term Bible study opportunities.
 - 4.a. Develop an in-home ministry to include worship, book review, support, and spiritual small group activities.
 - 5.a. Coordinate both day and evening opportunities for Vacation Bible School.
2. Create opportunities for people to physically participate with meaningful **mission** activities.
 - 2.a. Develop an intergenerational mission weekend.
 - 2.b. Establish a mission registry or data base of available talents for future mission/outreach needs.
 - 2.c. Create a community/church on wheels (COW).
 - 2.d. Participate in work camp mission trips that involves travel.
 - 2.e. Explore uses for the Caldwell parsonage.

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3. Develop and enhance **connections to our communities** that are recognized as fulfilling a significant need.
 - 3.a. Serve as host locations for local community groups.
 - 3.b. Reach out to local elementary schools to offer mentoring and other identified school and student needs.
 - 3.c. Establish mentoring support and music ministry for residents of local group homes.
 - 3.d. Develop a financial support process for impoverished local residents, similar to Hope Now, Inc.
 - 3.e. Establish a non-profit transportation system for the three communities.

4. Expand the role of **lay leadership** to further ministry and to foster stronger interactions among members of the Shared Ministry churches.
 - 4.a. Develop plans for using lay speakers as outreach to communities.
 - 4.b. Develop plans to identify the strengths of laity, recruit these individuals to be leaders and lay speakers and provide the necessary training.

5. Share and expand **worship** experiences.
 - 5.a. Implement a more visible participatory role for laity in worship.
 - 5.b. Establish a team to share planning of combined services and coordinate lists or a data base of shared worship resources, which could include:
 - Sheet music
 - Resources for drama presentations
 - Lists of worship leaders and lay speakers
 - Pulpit supply
 - Combined traveling musician/choral group