

Cornerstone Community Gathering Summary

The first Cornerstone Community Gathering was held after worship on Sunday, April 23, 2017. What follows is a summary of that conversation.

Purpose – The Cornerstone Leadership Team has decided to hold these gatherings at least once a quarter from now on, to communicate a variety of things with interested members of the Cornerstone community; similar to what the merger team did when we went through that process. As special programs, projects, events, etc. surface throughout the year, we may have a community gathering more often. The Leadership Team was introduced and copies of the teams, including the names of chairpersons and team members, were made available. The list can also be found online at the Cornerstone website (www.cornerstonemarshall.org).

New Mission Statement and 'tag line' - The Leadership Team has adopted a new mission statement for our local church. The United Methodist mission statement that we've previously used (Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world) is still in place, but it was decided that we should have our own, unique mission statement moving forward as a new re-start church. Our new statement is very similar to the one suggested by the merger team two years ago and is **“Courageously lead people toward life in Jesus Christ by reaching out, growing in Christ and connecting as a community”**. We have also shortened the statement for easy remembering, and will often refer to the tag line of **“Reach Out...Grow in Christ ... Connect as a Community”**

New Shift/overlying theme – Many of our leaders and others are currently reading a book, recommended by our DS Fred Vanderwerf, entitled “Shift” as a guideline for changing or shifting our focus as a congregation to accomplish our goals. The first chapter of the book speaks to “Fellowship to Hospitality” and describes things that we can do to shift our focus from fellowshiping with each other to reaching out beyond our circle in ways of hospitality to others. Through 2017 and 2018, this overlying theme will be at the forefront of our planning and goal setting.

Strategic planning goals – The Leadership Team is developing 3 goals to work on through 2018, keeping our mission statement and hospitality theme in mind. A ‘reaching’ and a ‘growing’ goal have been set, with our ‘connecting’ goal still in development. One or two of our ministry teams will brainstorm to develop and implement strategies to accomplish the goal, and these strategies may change over time, and include many others beyond the original team members for implementation. All teams, throughout the years, will focus their decisions with the mission statement and these goals in mind.

- A. The reaching goal is to increase the number of people within the Cornerstone community actively participating in mission. We would like to identify 2 or 3 “key” missions to our community, region or world to be our priority, and do those 2 or 3 things very, very well. The Hands on Missions and Outreach Teams will be leading the strategy building for this goal.
- B. The growing goal is to have, by the end of 2018, on average, 200 people actively participating in worship, programming and/or education at Cornerstone each week. The Worship and Children and Youth Ministry Teams will be leading the strategy building for this goal. AND the first strategy has already been decided upon by the

Worship Team in that we plan and launch a 2nd worship service (contemporary worship) in the fall of 2017. A task force to help make decisions and plans for a 2nd service is being formed and the Worship Team would like 6 to 8 people to serve on the task force. Interested people should contact Sandy Buesing (Worship Team chair), Pastor David, Matt Coleman or Connie Smisek.

- C. The connecting goal has not been finalized yet and is being worked on by the Leadership Team. If you have any suggestions, please let Connie or Matt know.

Building Research and Planning -- We are moving forward in developing the project to build a multi-purpose building in the 'green space' next to our parking lot. Vision for this building will be to help with the many space issues we are currently (or soon will be) facing. Possibilities include a space for the Marshall Food 4 Kids program, when the current arrangement with Agape Fellowship ends in July 2018, a place for contemporary worship, more space for youth gatherings, a space that other community groups could use/rent, a space for outreach programs to SMSU students, etc. Currently about \$170,000 (proceeds from the sale of Albright church and parsonage) is available in the building fund for this project. Obviously, a lot of time and ideas will be needed to develop and research the overall plan, with approval by the Cornerstone membership before breaking ground. The Leadership Team would greatly appreciate volunteers, skilled/interested in the various areas needed for developing this project to serve on the Building Research and Planning Task Force. Please let Matt or Connie know if you are interested in serving in this capacity, as we begin to name the task force members in May. For this project to be well thought out and realized we need a good cross-section of our community to be involved.

After the gathering, it was suggested that, in the future, these gatherings will be held in the sanctuary, rather than the Upper Room, so that microphones for facilitators and the audience could be used. We can also then record the conversation and post to a closed YouTube for people to view online. With these improvements we hope to alleviate the problems with speaking/hearing we had and apologize for any inconveniences it caused. Thanks to Chris Rowell and our Communications Team for figuring out a solution!

Watch for future announcements regarding our next Cornerstone Community Gathering.