

Connecting Ministry Overview

A. Mission

Offering radical hospitality to the world to connect people to God and each other.

B. Vision

Open people and spaces that actively welcome all to make a connection with God and others.

C. Values

- Staying current with technology by utilizing the latest software and hardware possible
- Reaching out to members with regular communication that contains a consistent and concise message
- Providing multiple opportunities and methods to learn about an activity, event, or Church matters
- Supporting all events and activities to the best of our abilities
- Continually finding new ways to enhance connections
- Sharing Jesus and FUMC with the broader Manhattan community

D. Primary objectives of ministry

| Primary Objective | Resources Needed | Number of People Involved | Priority |
|--|---|---|----------|
| Increased electronic communication within and beyond the church | Expanded network and internet capabilities Networked monitors in all classrooms and building entrances Communications hub, appropriately passcode secured, with work space Web cams Electronic reservation system Ability to text contributions and reservation deposits | Congregation and Community people accessing the facility | A/B |
| Open, welcoming entrances | Adequate parking for 600 people Main entrance with gathering space for 250 Welcome centers and informational kiosks staffed with individuals who are trained and knowledgeable who can be easily identified by visitors Improved signage | 600 people 250 people Everyone who walks in a Church door | A/B |
| Large fellowship space | Space to accommodate 600 people near commercial kitchen and adequate restroom facilities Beverage carts to provide hospitality in those areas that are not near a kitchen | 600 people | A/B |
| Facilitate transportation to all services and events | Increased van capacity Hands-free communication for van drivers | | A |
| Private preparation/ "holding" space for choirs, weddings, funerals, etc | Separate space for 50-voice choir and 6-octave bell choir with storage for music and equipment Dressing room for bridal party near bathrooms with make-up table w/mirrors and full-length mirror "holding" room near sanctuary for grieving families, etc. that could be partitioned for small groups | 50 people 10 people 30 people | C |

Priorities A – short-term, prior to 12 months
 B – mid-term, 12 to 24 months
 C – long-term, longer than 24 months

First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, KS

2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan

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IV. Measuring Points

- Repeat visitors
- Number of new members
- Number of new visitors
- Worship attendance
- Number of new persons moving into small groups

**First United Methodist Church Manhattan
Connecting Ministry
Action Planning**

Mission – Offering radical hospitality to the world to connect people to God and each other.

Person(s) Responsible for Action: Associate Pastors and Connecting Ministry Teams (Evangelism, Hospitality, Communications, Visitor Follow-up, New Member Orientation)

| Specific Action | Outcome | Resources Needed | Completion Date |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| Grow electronic media usage as primary communication vehicle with adequate resources while maintaining traditional methods | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | Individuals to regularly update social media and ensure website remains current as it is as critical as ‘front door’ of the church May require some programming training and computer expertise Membership training on usage and behavioral change May require updated hardware and/or software Include the ability to text contributions Add online reservation system which includes campus floor plans and the ability for the community at large to reserve space for events | Dec 2010 |
| Ensure that all campus “entrances” are welcoming and hospitable and answer the question “what do we need to know now that we have walked in this door” | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | Remove clutter and ‘extra’ furniture, announcement boards, items, etc to ‘stage’ the entrance area for a clean appearance Improve signage and add “You are here” maps Establish welcome centers (see next item) | Oct 2010 |

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|---|---|---|-------------|
| Establish information/welcome centers at each major building entrance, with trained greeters | To train, equip, inspire and mobilize all participants | Designated info/welcome center space Trained greeters with 'Ask me' buttons or some other visual identifier Campus maps Touch screens with printers tied to central communication hub built into center for security Credit card machines to take event payments, pledges, etc Current information | Spring 2011 |
| Provide access to modern transportation to shuttle individuals to services and events | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | A van to accommodate 20 persons per event for the next two years; expanding to 40 persons per event in the next five years Hands-free cell phones, or the addition of On-Star for all vehicles within the Church fleet Provide transportation during severe weather (ice) or at night | Summer 2011 |
| Assist in fellowship by providing food/beverage hospitality to campus areas not located near kitchen(s) | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | Mobile beverage carts capable of providing beverage service (coffee, water, tea, etc) and snack to serve small group functions | Spring 2011 |
| To train the entire congregation on how to connect with each other, especially visitors, and promote available activities outside of the Church | To train, equip, inspire and mobilize all participants | Training sessions Regular communications | Fall 2011 |

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|--|---|--|-------------|
| Establish a wired and wireless technologically advanced campus, including a campus-wide audio and video communications system, and podcasting capabilities | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | <p>Wi-fi in all buildings</p> <p>Improved video and audio recording capabilities</p> <p>Monitors in every classroom and large gathering areas that are tied to central communications hub</p> <p>Central communications center</p> <p>Web cams</p> <p>Trained staff</p> | Spring 2012 |
| Expand current network server closet into an appropriate passcode protected network server room | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | <p>Server room to be fully wired to entire campus</p> <p>Backup power supply/generator</p> <p>House central communications hub</p> <p>Desk/central terminal location and space for individuals to work</p> <p>Separate HVAC system to ensure stable and appropriate temperature</p> <p>Secure passcode protected entry</p> <p>Designated IT person</p> | Spring 2012 |
| Create a main entrance to the campus and provide adequate parking | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | <p>A central entrance with large welcoming/gathering space to accommodate 250 people</p> <p>Address parking needs and determine if parking garage would be appropriate</p> <p>Identify and train parking attendants</p> <p>Umbrellas and flashlights</p> | Fall 2012 |
| Significantly increase fellowship space to host receptions, potlucks, regional/district events | To ensure a welcoming and inviting atmosphere is created for all events and activities within the FUMC campus | <p>Increase fellowship space from the current capacity of 242 to accommodate 600 persons seated at round tables, with a podium or stage-type area and appropriate A/V equipment</p> <p>Improve and provide accessible restroom facilities</p> <p>Provide a commercial kitchen near fellowship space</p> | Fall 2012 |