

Consultation Report Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q1: Why is it recommended that we do this project? Are we a “bad” church?

A1: By no means are we a “bad” church. In fact, our church was specifically invited to participate in the Vital Church Initiative because the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church believes in our potential. However, we also have room to improve in terms of reaching our mission field and bringing others to Christ as per the United Methodist Church mission and our congregation’s vision.

Q2: What is the mission of The United Methodist Church?

A2: The UMC mission statement and therefore, the mission of Lake Harbor is “To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This comes from Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:18-20.

Q3: What is our church current mission/vision?

A2: Our mission statement is “Welcoming all. Empowered by Christ. Sent forth to serve.” This is our strategy for “Making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Q4: Can we vote to do only part of the prescriptions?

A2: No. The vote at the church conference by all present will be to accept the entire proposal (i.e. all of the prescriptions) or to reject the entire proposal. To reject the report would mean that we would not have the benefit of working with the coach provided by the Conference as our congregation moves forward to better position our church to reach more for Jesus Christ.

Q5: This seems like a lot of change and a lot of potential expense. Can we really do this?

A5: We cannot do this on our own. Only God, working through our congregation, can accomplish God’s mission in this place. Therefore, we are dependent upon God to provide for us the resources and opportunity to implement these prescriptions. The good news is that God provides for those who love Him and seek to do His will. God is calling us to “jump out of the boat” in faith.

Q6: What does our pastor and leadership team think of it?

A6: Pastor Mark and the remaining nine members of the leadership team are in **unanimous support** of the prescriptions. These are all things we need to do whether they are accepted or not. We have already begun work in several areas and are confident that we can move forward to complete all of them. Particularly in light of the upcoming pastoral change, it would be foolish to miss this opportunity to have free Conference support (see question 4). Naomi Garcia has also indicated that some of the deadlines will be adjusted so that our new pastor will have the opportunity for necessary participation in the process.

Note page for Town Hall Meetings

QUESTIONS: Prescription 1 --- Staff and Leadership Development

QUESTIONS: Prescription 2 --- Extravagant Generosity

QUESTIONS: Prescription 3 --- Intentional Faith Development

QUESTIONS: Prescription 4 --- Radical Hospitality

QUESTIONS: Prescription 5 ---- Passionate Worship