

PATHWAY TO PURPOSE NEWSLETTER

P2P Keeping YOU informed.



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Website: www.stjohnsuccmd.com

Pathway to Purpose: Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

Article: Paul Rowley

In April, 2022, the Pathway to Purpose (P2P) Report to the Congregation was presented to the congregation. This report outlined the work that was done over the course of about 2 months in late 2021 by 6 house groups, comprised of 36 congregational members. Based on the work of these groups, a consensus was achieved that we should work to redefine our mission, define our purpose, and work toward a future story focused on serving youth, schools, and refugees in our community. It was noted in the report that we need more hands and feet for missions, not just monetary contributions.

Next steps identified in the report included:

- Figure out our “Why”
- Develop a Vision Statement
- Begin a process to determine what the needs are within our community
- Evaluate current missions and implement new missions programs to serve our community and spread God's word.
- Implement a continuous prayerful, faith-based process to discern where God is leading us.

An Implementation Committee of ten (10) people was established in May 2022 to begin work. Through much discernment and discussion, that group developed a Vision (our goal), defined our Purpose (our why), and identified our mission (how we reach our goal). These were presented to the congregation in October 2022 and are also displayed at the end of this newsletter.

As we begin 2023, some time was spent evaluating our successes and our failures over the last year for our implementation. Overall, we have had great success. We have an amazing vision, why, and mission statement and we continue to be strongly committed to this pathway. Some work was done on community contact, but the response was not as positive as we had hoped. More work is needed and patience. We also recognized that we need to do better at communicating, that we need more people to assist with the implementation, and that we can get more done with some reorganization of our implementation committee. To that end, here are a few changes as we begin the new year:

- Three (3) subcommittees will be established under the auspices of the Implementation committee as follows:
 - Communication Subcommittee – Responsible for a monthly P2P Newsletter and for coordinating monthly speakers during worship to present information on P2P topics.
 - Community Outreach Subcommittee – Responsible to research community needs, contact community organizations, and foster community relationships.
 - Missions Subcommittee – Responsible to plan, coordinate, and implement mission work, both established programs and new ones.
- The implementation committee was reduced from 10 to 7 people at year end when we lost some folks who could no longer assist. Since P2P is such an important program and is an all-church effort, more people are needed who would be willing to participate on our subcommittees. If you are willing and able, please volunteer. Beyond that, we will also be personally contacting some folks. Please say YES, when asked.

In closing, it is our hope that this information is helpful. It is but the first article of many that we expect as we work to keep the congregation informed and ask for your support.

St. John’s Grace Pathway to Purpose: VISION, PURPOSE, AND MISSION

What is our goal? **A legacy of Christ’s love and justice.**
This is our vision.

Why? **We are called by God’s love.**
This is our purpose.

How do we reach our goal? **Seek God. Listen. Love. Do.**
This is our mission. Details of our mission are as follows:

Seek God.

God is our rock.

- Ask for God’s guidance.
- Pray
- Worship
- Study.

Listen.

God is still speaking.

- Be open to hearing what God has to say.
- Work to discern what God is telling us.

Love.

God is love.

- Love God in return
- Love ourselves
- Love all people – in our congregation, in our community and in our world.
- Love God’s creation

Do.

God asks us to put our faith into action.

- Welcome all
- Seek justice for all
- Determine community needs
- Be good stewards of the earth’s resources for present and future generations
- Serve others
- Teach
- Spread God’s love

P2P Implementation Committee:

George Knoerlein, Chair
Rev. Jennifer Knighton
Jan Austell

Will Caldwell
Nancy Gardner
Laura Prinn

Paul Rowley

P2P Communications Subcommittee/Newsletter:

Paul Rowley, Chair

Laura Prinn

Remember to ...

Say YES, when asked!

