

Vision 2020 Executive Summary and Report

For six weeks during October and November 2019, over 250 members and frequent visitors to Wellesley Village Church participated in the Vision 2020 process. Over 250 individuals from our congregation offered their thoughts in 19 small groups, which 36 guides and scribes represented as faithfully as possible to answer three questions:

What are our core principles? Who does God call us to be? What does God call us to do?

Congregational feedback from the small groups was provided to the Vision 2020 Writers Group to support their work of putting the congregations hopes and dreams into words. In late 2019, the writing group faithfully met, and prayerfully discerned the following Vision, Values and Mission statements as representative of our congregational voice. These statements were presented to the congregation in January 2020.

Vision

Grounded in Christian love, we boldly reimagine our faith journey together

Mission

With open hearts and minds, Wellesley Village Church welcomes the curious, the seeker, and the sure. Inspired by the Spirit and guided by the love of Jesus, our innovative worship, intentional communities, and inter-generational ministries deepen our faith and compels our service in God's beautiful and broken world.

Values

(BE)LOVED: by God at every age and stage of life;

(BE)LONG: we welcome, affirm, and connect;

(BE)COME: we question, learn, and grow;

(BE)FRIEND: the neighbor, the stranger, the earth;

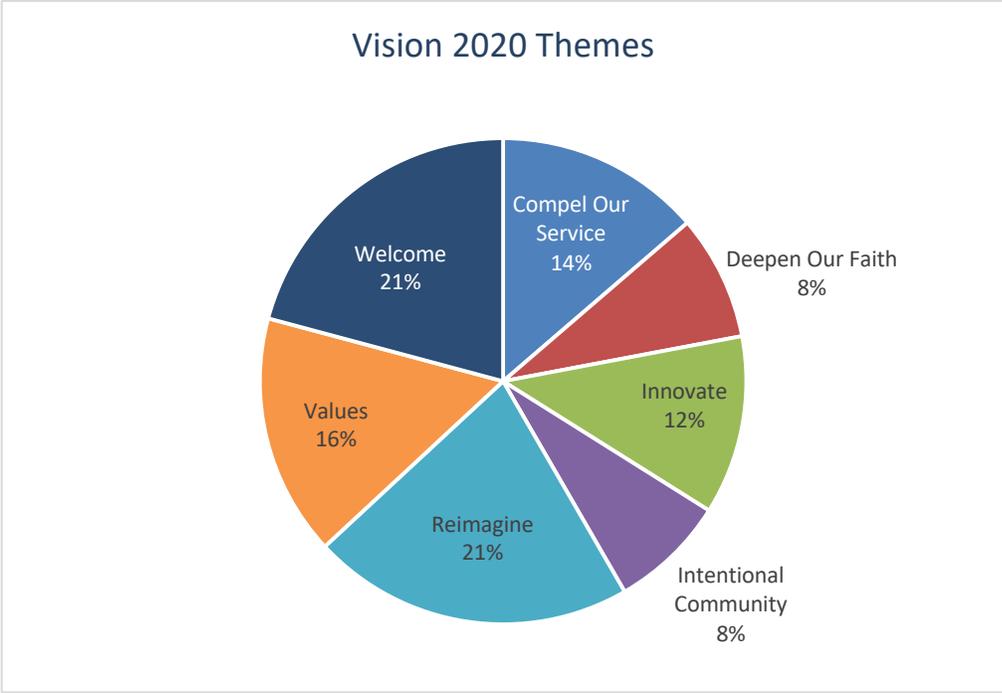
(BE)HOLD: we worship, witness, and follow Jesus

BE-ing real, vulnerable, and open to the love of God.

This summary provides an overview of congregational priorities categorized according to the Vision, Mission and Value statements.

Vision 2020 THEMES

What is God calling us to do and to be?

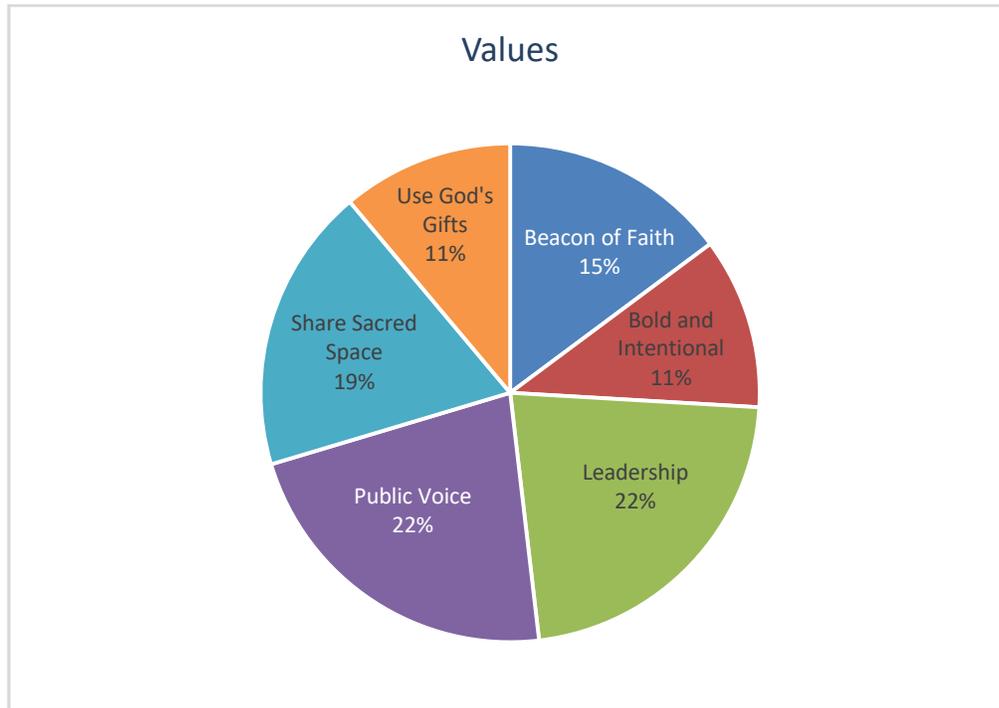


The following major themes emerged from the small group feedback:

- Reimagine
- Welcome
- Compel Our Service
- Innovation
- Deepen our Faith
- Intentional and Intergenerational Communities

These themes were incorporated into the Vision, Mission and Values Statements

OUR VALUES



Quotes

“We provide a safe space for difficult conversations”

“We are a public voice”

“We use our talents and resources to serve others”

“We want to be role models on climate change, and overcoming racism and violence”

“We are a place of learning”

“We are a place for young and old to connect”

“We are a beacon and a sanctuary to explore our faith”

“We are a place of meaningful worship for people to cultivate their faith journey”

“We are a place where spiritual transformation can happen”

“We are a launchpad that supports change in the local community and greater world”

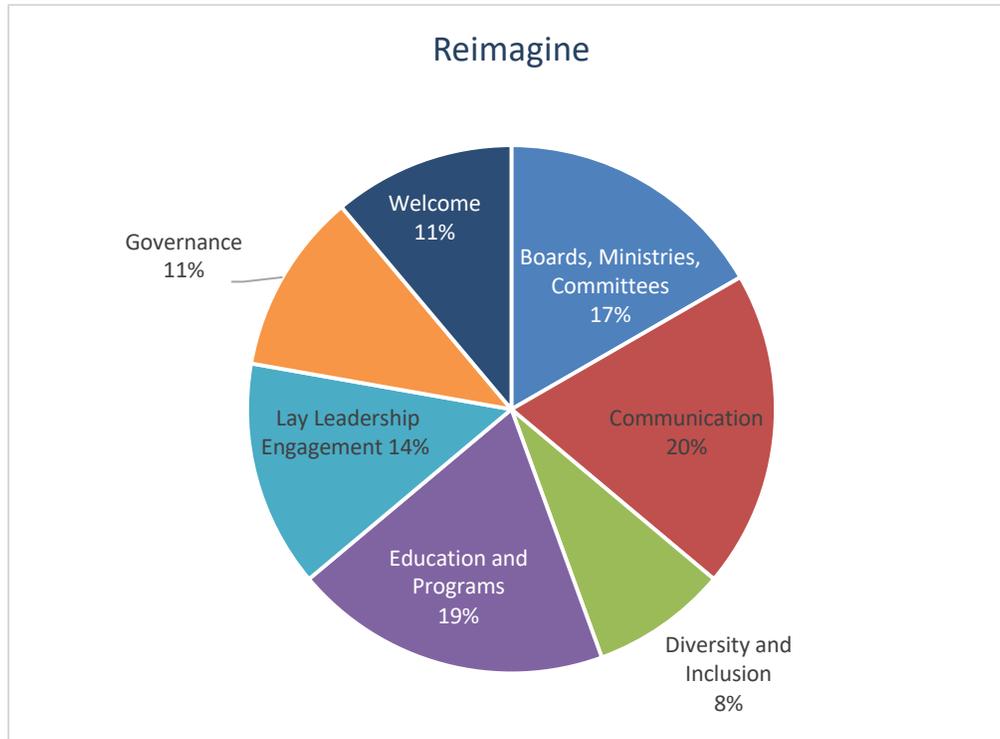
“We use our individual members gifts to do God’s work”

“We model tolerance and are a place that allows for vulnerability”

“We make room at the table for everyone”

REIMAGINE

“We boldly reimagine...”

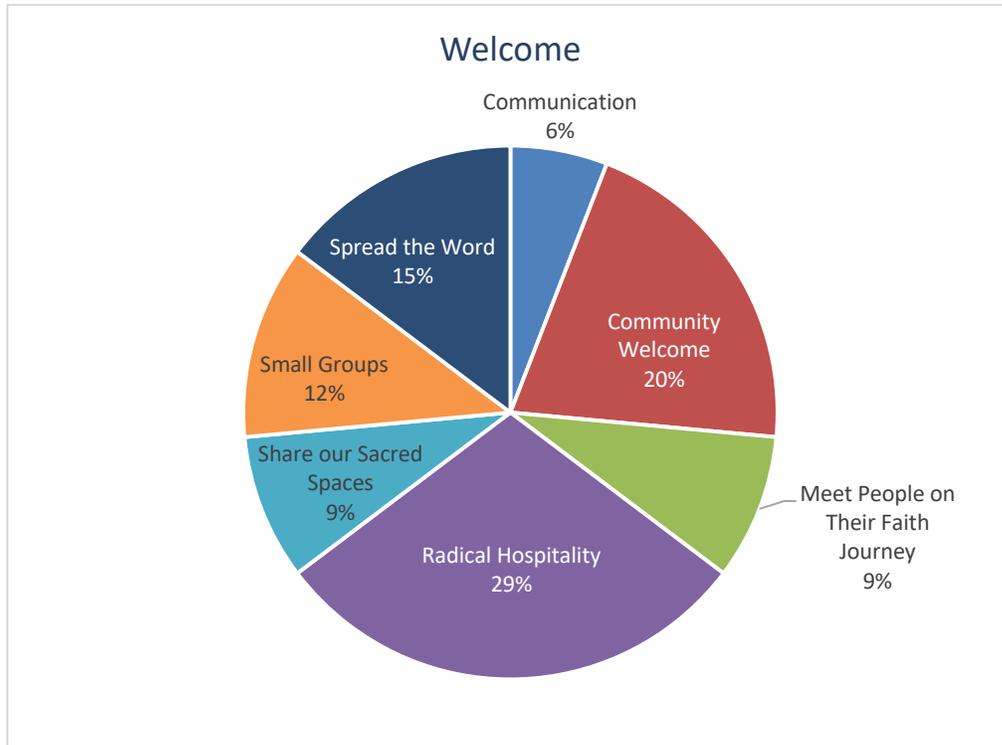


Quotes

- “Expand the music program. It is at our core”
- “Focus on unique, current and beautiful music – even more than we already do”
- “How can we learn more about each other’s skills and talents?”
- “Provide more opportunities for, and support of, lay leadership”
- “Consider revisiting committees to ensure they are functioning most effectively”
- “Let’s create greater communication channels between ministry groups”
- “Open a seat on each Board and Ministry group for a youth representative”
- “Can we set up an “HR department” for church volunteers?”
- “How do we enhance the nominating process and ensure clarity on ministry roles?”
- “Create programs that are relevant in today’s world not based on how things have always been”
- “How can we use technology better?”
- “Can we turn up the volume on how we welcome people?”
- “Let’s look to our youth programs as a source of spirit”
- “Let’s promote and encourage diversity”

WELCOME

“...the curious, the seeker and the sure”



Quotes

“How do we appeal to the unchurched?”

“Let’s introduce church in ways other than worship – concerts, lectures”

“We have an iconic location. How can we make it more welcoming to the community?”

“How can we tailor our communication so that members/visitors receive the information they need”?

“Can we have more social events that build our presence in Wellesley and attract new members?”

“Can we use the outside spaces as a sanctuary for the community?”

“Let’s do more activities on our front lawn”

“Let’s open our doors”

“Let’s be welcoming of the marginalized members of our community”

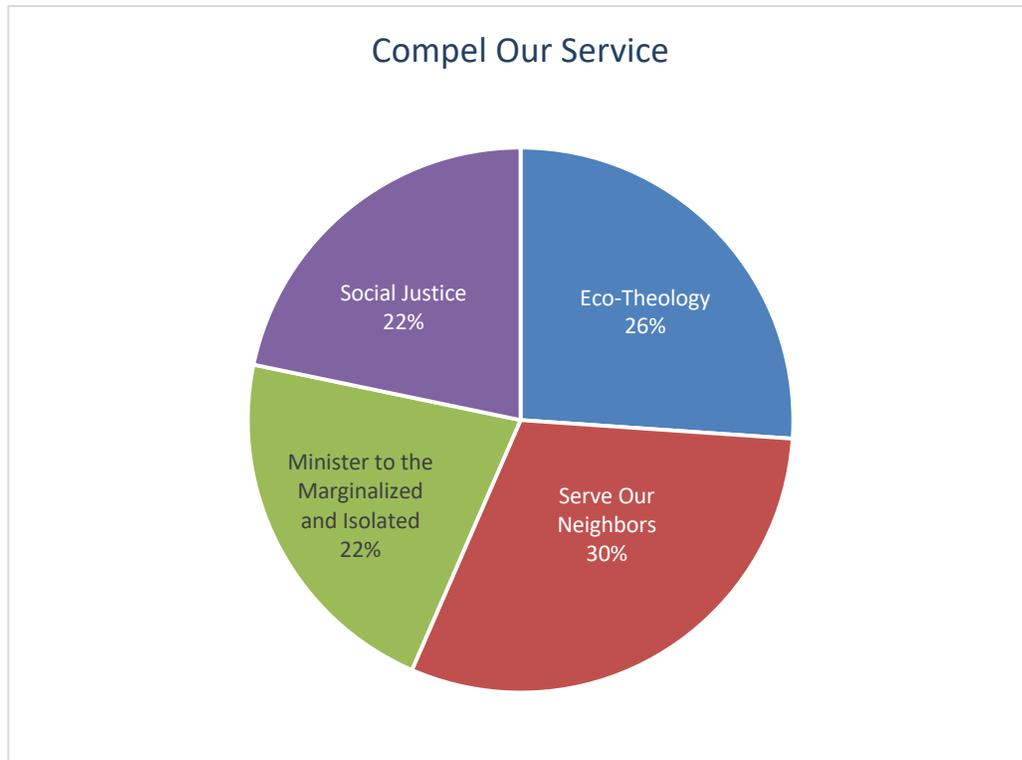
“Let’s embrace those within our own congregation who feel socially isolated or marginalized”

“Let’s work on how we engage newcomers”

“Don’t forget to be welcoming of those already at our table”

COMPEL OUR SERVICE

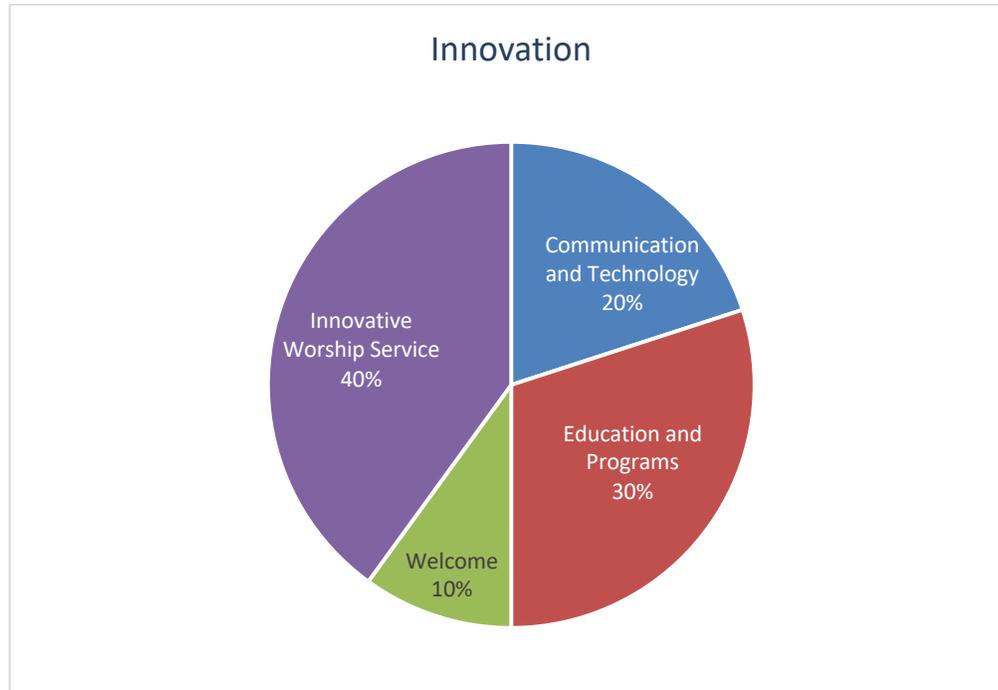
“...in God’s beautiful and broken world”



Quotes

- “Let’s be servants to the world, our community and ourselves”
- “Can we do more outreach to those in our own community who are lonely or marginalized?”
 - “Let’s protect God’s creation as part of our ministry”
 - “Can we bring questions of the environment into our theology?”
 - “Can we unify around environmental issues?”
- “Can we create short/one-time local service opportunities as well as long term outreach?”
 - “Can we engage in other outreach with other faith communities to foster greater integration and understanding?”
 - “Let’s meet people outside of our walls”
- “We should do more outreach to the larger community, so people feel welcome to enter through our doors”
 - “Continue to strengthen our community service ministries”
 - “Let’s be servants to the world, our community and ourselves”
 - “Focus on racial injustice”
- “Let’s marshal our energy around fundamental needs – food insecurity, mental health”

INNOVATION



Quotes

“We must take a significant step change in how we use technology, from podcasts of the service, to participation in ministry via video chat. “

“Enhance website”

“Adapt to the iPhone generation”

“Can we consider potential alternative worship services like a 30-minute mid-week service?”

“There is a strong feeling that we need a third service”

“How do we reconcile those who seek the benefit of the church without needing the deeper theological connection, with those people who feel empty without it?”

“Can we have discussions post-worship about the service and sermon?”

“Not everyone does Sunday Service, where can we meet them to share the good news?”

“Let’s develop our church beyond the traditional service”

“Can we use our spaces more effectively?”

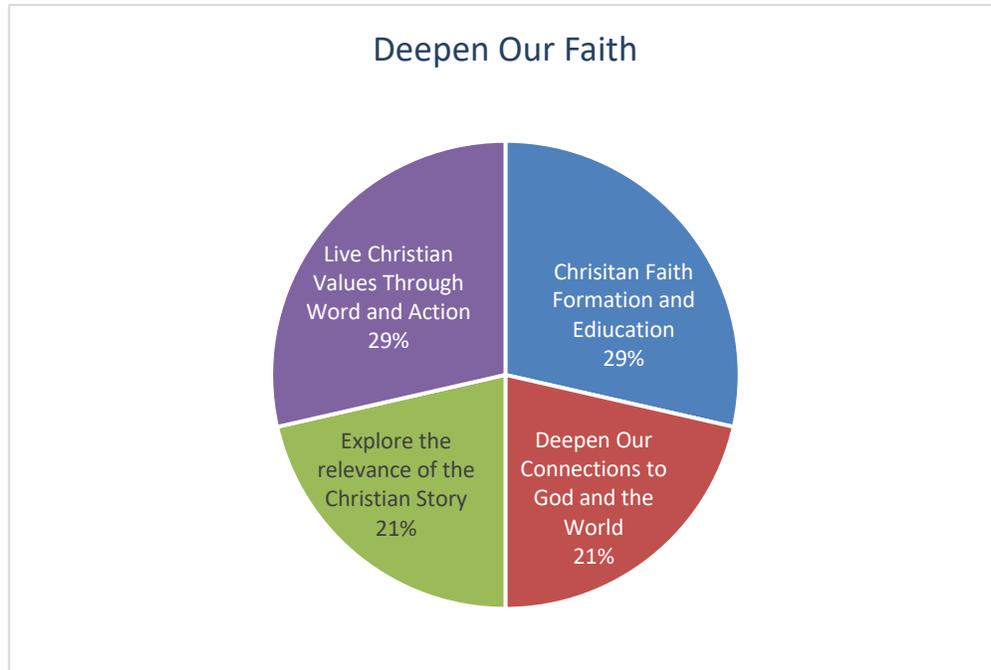
“Can we have speaker exchanges with other faith-based organizations?”

“Equip congregants to bring church language to the forefront of our faith”

“Develop and foster small groups based on a variety of relevant and current issues”

DEEPEN OUR FAITH

“In Gods Beautiful and Broken World”



Quotes

“Let’s be a moral center, where focus on the issues is a stimulus for encountering and discussing truths”

“Equip our congregation to bring ‘church language’ to the forefront of conversations”

“Help us feel more comfortable talking about Jesus outside our sanctuary walls”

“Be a vehicle for spiritual growth”

“How do we tap into the Christian story so that it feels relevant today?”

“We are a community of faith disciples - let’s live our values out in the world”

“Enable personal development and enhanced engagement with the core precepts of our religion”

“Bring Christian lexicon outside the walls of our church in a way that feels comfortable”

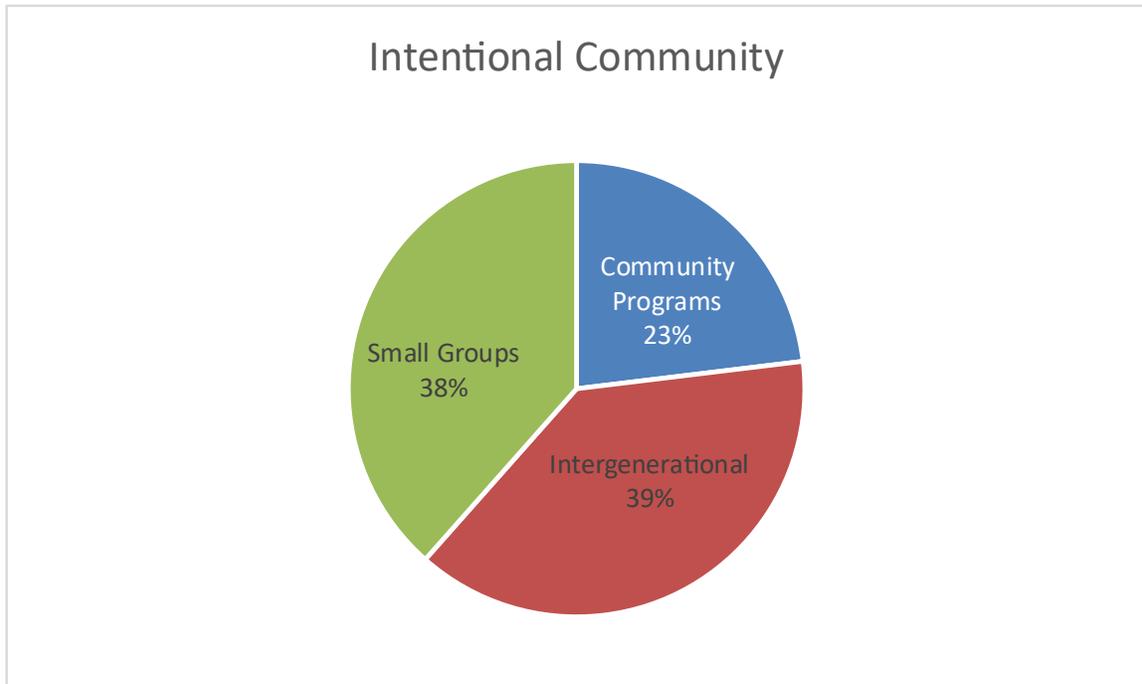
“Continue to be a resilient, creative, flexible, accepting resource for faith journey/life journey”

“Be a source of spiritual nourishment and enrichment for everyone”

“Help members as on their journey of faith and through life”

“Adult confirmation classes would be wonderful”

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY



Quotes

“Let’s create more intergenerational experiences”

“How do we formally identify and value the institutional knowledge of older generations and then share it”

“Can children be involved as greeters, ushers or even communion?”

“More prayer groups”

“Let’s do more contemplative activities and Bible study”

“Let’s encourage more small groups”

“Let’s have playgroups for parents with small children”

“Let’s host international potlucks to learn about our cultures”