



# SCC Vision Team Fall Update

September 2025



## Visioning Process Overview:

The Storrs Congregational Church Vision Team was created in the late fall of 2024 and began to work together in December. The church contracted with Paul Nickerson to be our visioning consultant and he visited SCC in January 2025 to talk with us about the vision process. Paul invited us to consider three questions.

***Why do we exist as a church? Where are we going? How will we get there?***

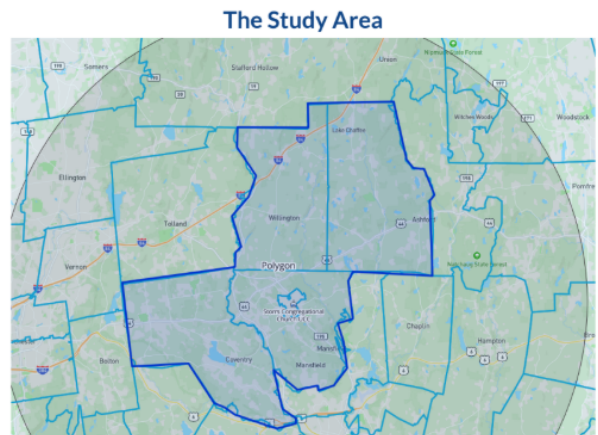
Together we have begun this journey to address these questions with prayer, reflection on scripture, learning about our community and the needs of those who live here. You can learn more about this work in each section below. The Vision Team usually meets twice a month, devoting the second hour of one of the meetings to conversations with Paul Nickerson.

## Demographics/Community:

The Vision Team used MissionInsite to provide a few demographic overviews of the population around Storrs Congregational Church. The team settled on studying the four towns of Mansfield, Willington, Coventry and Ashford. Looking at community demographics, there were some interesting things to note.

One third of the parents of children under 18 are single parents. Many in our community are highly educated and two-thirds are in white collar jobs. There are more young adults and more older residents than the state average in these four towns. The number of families and school-aged children is decreasing. The ethnicity makeup is about 79% white. The household and per capita income are both trending upward.

There was also information about typical preferences of the type of people who live in our community. For ministry preferences, these residents are often looking for opportunities for meaningful relationships, adult social activities, involvement in social causes and volunteering. They generally prefer a professional minister, quality sermons, traditional worship and building, and warm, friendly encounters.



## Prayer Walk Themes:

There have been several prayer walks/drives in the areas around our church. Sometimes we explored neighborhoods with a resident and sometimes not, so there were varying levels of insight into the experiences of those who lived there. The team identified some themes that came up as we walked prayerfully through neighborhoods.

- Changing Neighborhoods-There were some long-term residents aging in place and some new student residents.
- Sense of Community- The participants wondered if residents feel connections to others in their neighborhood.
- Access-There was speculation about whether residents could secure needed services from their neighborhood.

## Scripture Study Themes:

Scripture studies began at our potluck gathering in March and have continued through the spring and summer with SCC staff, groups and committees.

We studied:

**Exodus 3:** God appears to Moses: “You will bring my people out of Egypt.”

**Jeremiah 29:** God says to God’s exiled people, “I know my plans for you.”

**Matthew 17:** Jesus is transfigured. God reveals Jesus’ divinity to the disciples.

Themes that emerged in this process were:

- Pay attention
- Do not be afraid
- God is with us~we can trust God!
- Change is a constant
- God calls all of us to serve

## Next Steps:

The Vision Team invites all to continue to join us in Prayer Walks and Scripture Study this fall. The Team will be arranging interviews with relevant groups and members of our community. We welcome others to suggest and/or lead interviews. All of this work is leading to the exciting opportunity to begin congregational discussions of our Purpose and Priorities.

This update, along with the informational meeting after worship, is part of the Vision Team’s work to communicate their progress. You can find more information at the Vision Team link on the SCC website, on the VT bulletin board in the lounge, and watch for updates in emails, in the bulletin and in The Carillon, or talk to a member of the team. Thank you for your input throughout this journey! As always, we are asking for your prayers for the vision process.

Jan Castle, Sue Irvine (Chair), Chris McLean, Paul Schur, Ellen Smith, and Rev. Diane Seaborn