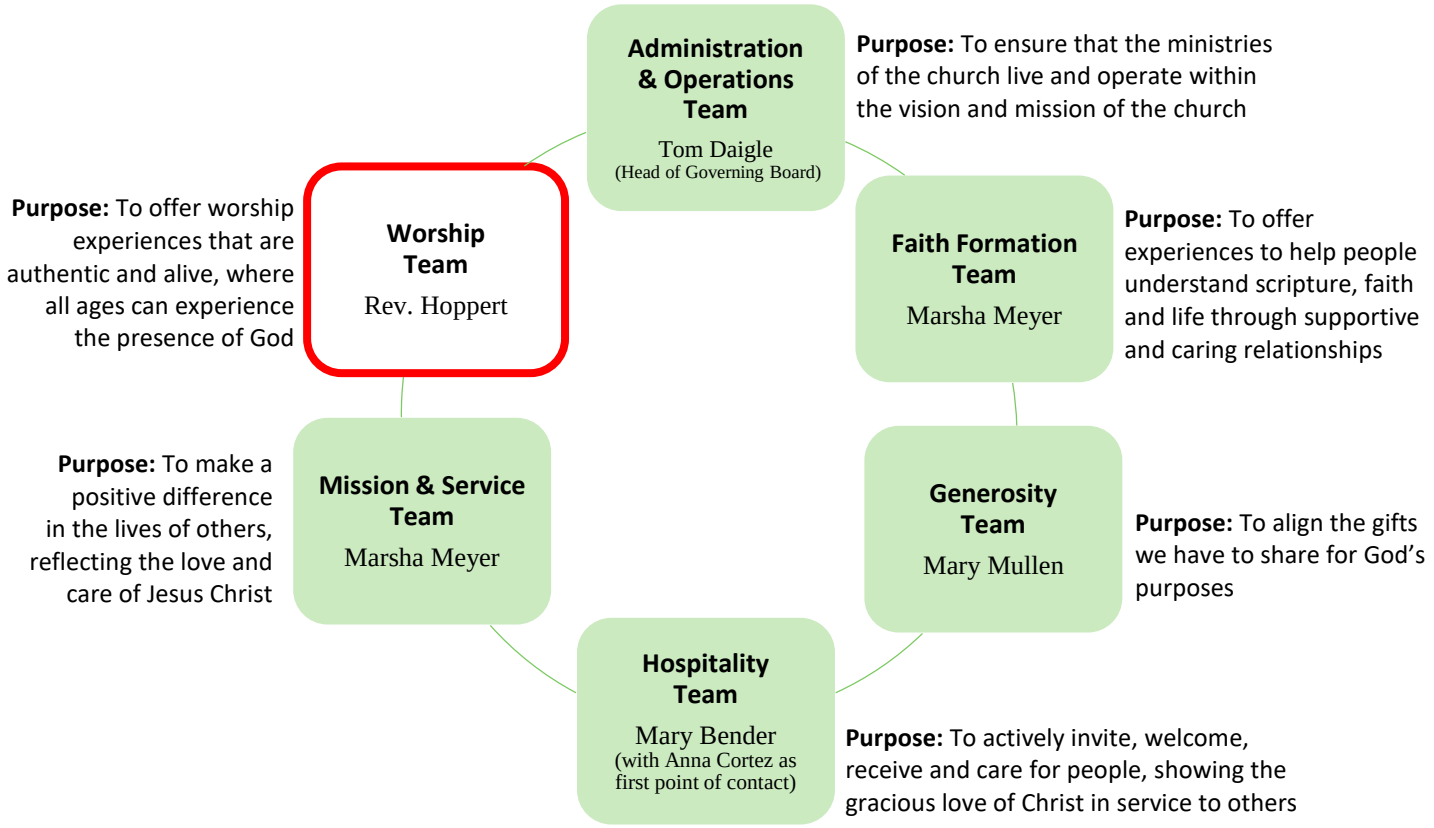
MINISTRY TEAMS TAKING SHAPE IN NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL: **December Focus – Worship Team**

Salem's Governance Restructuring Team is pleased to share a diagram which shows how each ministry team is in relationship with the others – all working together for the love of God and all within God's creation. The purpose and leader are listed for each of the ministry teams. Month-by-month, we focus on one of our six ministry teams…



In Robert Schnase's book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations,* he lists "Passionate Worship" as one of those practices. Salem's **Worship Team** has dedicated itself to the purpose of making our worship of God a passionate pursuit of excellence. Worship happens when we deliberately seek to meet God in Christ; it is here that we develop our relationship with God and with the others who seek to worship God. Worship is an experience that draws us out of our self-focus and directs us towards what God is doing in this world. Worship provides us with a place to experience forgiveness, the restoration of relationships, and the transformation of our lives.

That desire to encounter God should be marked with **passion.** Without passion, worship runs the risk of being lifeless. There should be an intensity of spirit, emotion, and energy connected with it. By extension, if worship is worthy of our passion it should also be worthy of our excellence. We should put forward our best planning and our best execution when it comes to our worship.

Passionate worship has little to do with styles of worship; passionate worship can be traditional and formal as well as contemporary and informal. It is not so much the style, but the attention to excellence that is most critical.

Passionate worship needs to consider the many parts of the worship. It is not just about music, liturgy and worship: it is also about the kind of hospitality one experiences, the visuals and symbols one finds in the worship space, the kind of pacing and movement that takes place within worship, and the technology that enables us to share God's good news with the world around us—especially during a time when a pandemic has closed down our in-person worship.

Any team that focuses on the worship of God needs people with a variety of skills and gifts. We need people who have gifts in hospitality, music, public speaking, visual art, and technological expertise. All of these gifts need to work together to make the worship experience an excellent one.

It is the hope of our **Worship Team** that persons who have these gifts and the desire to share them will be encouraged to come forward to participate in this important work. If you are someone who feels called to be a part of this work, please contact the church office. We need persons with a variety of gifts and talent.

What "for the love of God" are we willing to do to make our worship a passionate pursuit of excellence?