



In response to the Evaluative Phase of the Vision Process as outlined by 2020's Vision Team, Broadway's pastoral team gathered on retreat on July 6th and 7th, 2021, to prayerfully consider each submitted Master Narrative and program evaluation shared by the Broadway family. Retreat participant's included Adonica Coleman, John DeLaporte, Terry Overfelt and Mark Briley. Reading with an ear for common themes and direction spiritually aligned with our newly established Core Values, a Priority Action Plan was prayerfully crafted. Each priority has met spiritual agreement among pastoral leadership and the Executive Committee with a heart to grow each priority forward. Newly created Action Teams appointed by pastoral and Executive leadership will further explore the best ways to bring each priority to life, working with existing committees and program teams to enhance our already thriving ministries.

Each *Action Team* will create an Action Plan with regular accountability check-points with pastoral and Executive leadership. Any action requiring Board approval will follow the usual channels and partnership with appropriate existing committees and program teams. The Priority Action Plan names the "*what.*" The Action Teams will create the "*how.*"

Our pastors and lay leadership teams are committed to our current ministries of care and programming that are serving our Broadway family and community so well already. Existing program teams and committees are encouraged to further develop ideas that surfaced during their own discernment about how to best embody our newly established core values: *Broad Hearts; Broad Minds; and Broad Reach.* New Action Teams will simply be added partners to accomplish these rising themes of focus for the congregation.

Our Executive Committee met on August 10th to prayerfully discern these proposals, finding spiritual agreement and consensus on each action priority after healthy dialogue and intentional consideration. Great strength was found and grounded in Broadway's *Statement of Welcome* as crafted and approved in 2015. It is stated again here as a beautiful reminder of who Broadway is committed to be as citizens of the Kingdom of God, our beloved home city of Columbia, and beyond. Grounded in Galatians 3:26-28, the statement reads:

The congregation of Broadway Christian Church proclaims that we are a place of welcome to all, regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, political stance, socioeconomic background, criminal history, or theological perspective. We welcome all to this congregation, to Christ's table, and to service within the church. We recognize the faith, baptism and spiritual gifts of all Christians and those yearning to know Christ and celebrate that we are all children of God, striving together to do God's will.

It is with such heart, that we grow our future on the foundation of such welcome. May you find such reflected in this *Priority Action Plan*, offered with enthusiasm by the hearts of Broadway's pastoral and Executive leadership.

Executive Committee participating in August 10th's consensus: David Holmes (*Chair*); Mary Cunningham (*Vice-Chair*); Ingrid Luckenbill (*Church Administrator*); Jim Dunne (*Elder Chair*); Chris Meade (*Deacon Chair*); Phil Fichter (*Permanent Funds*); Betty Sapp (*Secretary*); Terry Overfelt (*Minister*); Mark Briley (*Minister*); John DeLaporte (*Director of Youth Ministries and Faith Formation*); Adonica Coleman, (*Director of Community Engagement*)

Vision Action Team #1: *Grow a Multi-Racial + Multi-Ethnic Congregation*

Pastoral/Staff Liaison to Team: *Mark Briley & Adonica Coleman*

In 1961, Broadway became the first congregation in Columbia to openly welcome, include, and affirm people of color into the full life of the community. Denominationally, in 1968 and a renewed affirmation in 1996, the Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*) committed to being an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation Church. In more recent years, Broadway made statements in opposition to white nationalist's rallies in Charlottesville and beyond. On-the-ground efforts commenced with the formation of Broadway ministries partnering with others from the community to foster relationships among a multi-racial community. This effort has birthed ministries like *Race Forward*, the *Racial Healing Project*, and *Feet Under the Same Table* that are living this vision already. Two national Civil Rights Pilgrimages have been birthed out of Broadway as well as the partnership in local pilgrimages and Columbia's first ever Juneteenth celebration in 2020. Given this history, the ongoing need of racial healing in the world, and the current passion of existing leadership (*both lay and staff along with the congregation*), Broadway is primed to become a living example to our city, denomination and nation of how a multi-racial congregation can grow and thrive – a beautiful expression of the Realm of God on earth.

Vision Action Team #2: *Create an Inviting Front Porch + Facility Enhancement*

Pastoral/Staff Liaison to Team: *Mark Briley*

Building on the initial work of the *Front Porch Committee* from Broadway's previous visioning process, we long to create a growing sense of vitality and welcome from the outside in. Establishing new signage, banners, and color outside will be an outward expression of our inward growth and transformation. Studying our facility to determine how it is facilitating ministry (*or not*) as it pertains to the present Vision will narrow our focus on needed updates/enhancements. There is growing passion to create a clear "*Main Entrance*" opening to an expansive and warm space that has clear directional signage with plenty of room to connect, fellowship and simply *be*. Addressing outdated nursery and toddler classrooms can make way for creativity in building design for both gathering, welcome, fellowship and new spaces for children. Updating the basement spaces that welcome hundreds of neighbors every week for recovery meetings or community support as well as a refreshed and accessible playground should be discerned.

Vision Action Team #3: *Establish 'Green Chalice Congregation' Status + Grow Ecological Stewardship*

Pastoral/Staff Liaison to Team: *Terry Overfelt*

Living out our faith by caring for creation is a natural outpouring of Broadway's DNA. Today's up and coming generations are rallying with passion around the call to care for the earth and protect the quality of life for humanity and all of the created world. With current practices from simple recycling efforts to larger ones like our community garden, Broadway is already primed to become a denominationally recognized *Green Chalice* congregation. With additional considerations, Broadway can strive to become officially *Certified*, growing our attention to an ecologically friendly ethos as a congregation.

Vision Action Team #4: *Grow Ministry Opportunities for the Flourishing of People of Varied Ability Levels*

Pastoral/Staff Liaison to Team: *John DeLaporte & Crystal Harrison*

Building on the heart for inclusion in the last decade through our *All God's Children* ministry engaging children with disabilities and their families with in the full life of our ministry, we seek deeper integration of people of all ages and ability levels in the life of our church. Growing *with* our current AGC families calls for new approaches in relationship and support. Fostering a new generation of families in the program and looking toward inclusion

of young adults through consideration of a *Love Coffee*-like work and service program could be timely and fruitful.

Vision Action Team #5: Grow Affirming Ministries with LGBTQ+ Persons and Families

Pastoral/Staff Liaison to Team: *Terry Overfelt & Casey VanDyke*

In August, 2012, Broadway's "Seeing 2020" visioning process included: *Serving as an open and welcoming church for all who may come to our door with immediate consideration of a policy regarding the performance of same-sex union ceremonies at BCC.* In July of 2013, by overwhelming majority, our denomination voted at the General Assembly in Florida to adopt GA-1327: *"Becoming a People of Grace and Welcome to All" Christians regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Neither is grounds for exclusion from fellowship or service within the church but celebrated as part of God's good creation.* In October of 2015, after a year-long process of study, discernment and discussion, Broadway's members voted to be an open and welcoming congregation. Given this denominational and church community history, Broadway is in a position to become a growing example in our city, denomination and nation of how an affirming congregation becomes a source of belonging and empowerment for LGBTQ+ Christians who have been told they were "unfit" for ministry because of how they love.

Vision Action Team #6: Create an Imaginarium

Pastoral/Staff Liaison to Team: *Mark Briley, Adonica Coleman & Casey VanDyke*

As the world continues to evolve following the Global Pandemic, natural questions about the role and place of Church have surfaced with renewed fervor. With an eye to the future, it is critical that Broadway maintain a ready pulse on the development of faith and spiritual formation of each generation and also the "Dones" – those previously churched who have lost interest or perceive the value of congregational life to be diminished. Creating space for focus groups to share continued dialogue with Broadway leadership concerning their given demographic will help the church better understand and respond to the needed connecting points of an ever-changing society. An *Imaginarium* would host safe/brave spaces for focus groups to do just that.