

#1: Reviewing and Renewing the MCCDC Culture(s)

- **What Kind of Church Are We and Who Are We Called to be?**
- **Wednesday January 10, 2024 from 6:30p.m. to 7:45p.m.**

Question: What kind of church are we?

Answers:

1. We are a Christian church with a special outreach to the LGBTQ community.
2. We are a welcoming church that invites people to come as they are to worship God.
3. We are a radically inclusive church where we each find our way to God and accept God's unconditional love for ourselves and each other.

Question: What do you think we are known for?

Answers:

1. People in the community know us as a gay church.
2. Non-judgmental.
3. We are considered pioneers but not cutting edge anymore and as a place of refuge for the transgender community based on our services and welcome.
4. They see us as predominantly white, particularly those who are not in the church scene.

Question: About a year from today, and about 5 years from now, what would you like us to be known for?

Answers:

In one year:

1. I would like to us to be a more inclusive community for the transgender community particularly to the transgender people themselves.
2. I would like us to be known for our social actions in different areas.
3. I would like us to be known in the surrounding community as a welcoming place even when you are not a Christian.
4. I want others to know we are a community that has different aspects, i.e., epidemic of loneliness and isolation, I hope that we can be know that there is a community that breaks that isolation, to be a more intergenerational, interracial, and a "modern" community, progressive in the sense that we chose to do social action.
5. I would also like us to be known as a place of healing, a place where people can come and be healed and comforted, and not be turned away.
6. To be a genuine church, genuinely seeking a relationship with God and community and not for power, money.
7. To be genuine when we interact with one another, to learn not just through sermons but through other programs where we can learn from, e.g. Bible in 90 days, like a priesthood of believers.
8. Building up and revitalizing the active groups e.g., older adults, EP, choir, music ministry.

In five years:

1. A more robust youth ministry.
2. I would love for us to be known as a place where our actions show our aspirations to be actionable and to be put into motion in terms of engagement in the community, engagement in the community around us and as well as the broader global community.
3. I would like for us to be a non-church church that is genuine not anti-intellectual and non-bigoted.
4. To be more sustainable as a community, in terms of carbon footprint, to get to a place that is known for caring for God's creation.
5. To be sustainable, we need more people to do the things that we are trying to do, that means growth in numbers, also financially and commitment from the people.
6. To be known as a place where people feel connected, where there is communication, interaction, a place to make friends and meet family.
7. To be known as a place where we honor the past and realize that there are new ways of moving into the future, more virtual connections, and of course in person.
8. A more dynamic music ministry.
9. Look into having partnerships with other churches and communities

Question: What would you like to see our virtual ministry in 1 year and in 5 years?

Answers:

1. Sustainable interactive activities like growing from the live stream to hosting people virtually, e.g., virtual Bible studies, virtual membership, virtual Board members.
2. Engagement beyond the chat box for our live stream folks, for them to be more interactive, to find ways that they can engage throughout the week and the way that we can maybe sit down and have a virtual dinner together.
3. Consistency in activities, monitoring, informing, and communicating with the people about the church programs, congregational meetings and forums.
4. A more user-friendly and intuitive website making it easier for members to be informed about activities, minutes of the board meetings, etc., and for non-members to know more about us by adding more teaching modules.

Question: In 1 year and 5 years, how would you like our neighbors to know who we are?

Answers:

1. A place that pulls the community together.
2. To be known as a place as having figured out how to engage with neighbors, e.g. peace pole activities, start a traditional prayer for peace, outside art, signs, posters

Question: Are there questions we need to be asking?

1. To ask those who used to come to church, why do they not come anymore?
2. For those who have not come to church, what would attract you to come?
3. For those who do not come anymore, ask What do you miss in the church?

4. Are we ready and prepared for what's to come in 2025 and beyond given the political realities of our country? Who are we called to be as a community in a worst-case scenario?
5. To those who are active, ask the question: What is it that you need? Is there anything specific that you would like to get out of MCCDC that you feel like you are not getting in terms of spiritual growth and connection in the church?