

Next Century Vision

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The Way of Love

“Our Next Century Journey”

Inspired by our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. **Michael Curry**

This week’s Town Hall meeting is a continuation of the Next Century Vision report. Please see the notes from last Sunday, October 25 for the introductory statements.

Vision for “Our People”

Strategic Statement:

- We will continually listen to and innovatively connect with people in all facets of life, identity so that they can deepen their relationship to God’s community and people.

Key Objectives:

- We will recognize all individuals who engage in activities and/or provide service to the Cathedral as members of our community. This definition will be infused within all groups and committees to promote greater variety and diversity of participants in Cathedral activities, initiatives, committees, and leadership.
- We will proactively connect to people who are not of our church or faith tradition. We will create and expand our relationships with other Christian denominations, interfaith local collaborative organizations, and unchurched individuals. We will create regularly occurring listening processes so that we are listening to multiple facets of our people.
- We will improve the ways that the Cathedral provides a welcoming and accessible (mentally, spiritually, and physically) environment for all people to use to deepen their relationship with God and provide service to God’s people. We will have discussions on changes that could make this space more accessible to everyone.

Vision for “Our Diocese”

Strategic Statement

- Christ Church Cathedral will provide leadership, example, and resources to foster diocesan connection and liturgy, Beloved Community, and neighborhood connection throughout the diocese of Southern Ohio.

Key Objectives:

- We will serve as a resource center for innovative liturgy throughout the diocese. We will seek fresh expressions of worship from churches and intentional communities throughout the Episcopal Church and share our learning via Diocesan and Cathedral communications. We will host an annual workshop where creative ideas are shared.

- We will develop a leadership team of Cathedral and Diocesan community members. This group will consult with diocesan leadership (Bishop’s staff, Diocesan Council, and lay and clergy leaders throughout the DSO) to identify 4 parishes for partnership, one in each of the following areas: Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, and the Eastern side of the diocese. Each congregation will identify one Beloved Community project for which they seek assistance from CCC during that calendar year. CCC will provide assistance that could include funding, strategic planning assistance, strategic partnering, or other resources.
- We will help convene the Cincinnati Episcopal Churches into a collaborative. This Collaborative will bring needed attention, alliances, and resources to ministry challenges that face all Cincinnati neighborhoods and that cause people to feel disconnected from the community of faith including addiction, housing insecurity and inequity, and inequities in income and opportunity.

How Do You Bring Yourself into this Vision?

- How do we (members) consider the costs involved in the work? Have budgets been established for each area?
 - This is work for each group as they go forward. It was not in our charge to determine budgets.
- Membership?
 - We find there are many folks who are not “members’ of the Episcopal church but do wonderful work within the church outreach programs. These are the people we want to engage with more deeply.
- Sorry to come late but can you post the Bishop’s statement again? Also, can you post the entire report in its entirety?
 - At the end of the third session, we will post the entire report. But for now, we have broken into three sections for presentation purposes.
- In your work, what group or method do you see as being successful for the relationship building within the Diocese?
 - We look to be more intentional about our outreach and will ask how we can help with work that is ongoing within a congregation.
 - There are some barriers that we need to overcome. The Cathedral is seen as having vast resources: money; music; staff. Other congregations may not have these resources and may see their work as daunting because of this. We need to partner with them as they move forward in their work.
 - Some diocesan churches outside of Cincinnati have communicated that they feel we only come to them when we want something. We do need to be more intentional in our communications that we are here to help.
 - “Co-creating the Cathedral” is a report that was accomplished four or five years ago that may be helpful with this work.

Next week’s Town Hall will complete the presentation of the Next Century Vision. The report in its entirety will be available for anyone interested in have a copy. The comments from the Town Hall meetings will also be available.