Mission Study 2026

DATA ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY RESULTS

DISCERNED BY SESSION, DEACONS AND MISSION STUDY TEAM

Current State

- We are an aging congregation, with many longtime members, that have strong affiliations with and deep connections within our church.
- We believe deeply in giving back to our community, which is witnessed by being known externally as the “Do Gooder” church. We provide financial support to various non-profit organizations, both locally and globally, and enable local non-profits to use our facilities.
- We are a supportive welcoming community, with a variety of theological viewpoints.
- During this extended time of pastoral transition our church has pulled together to “keep the doors open”, and in so doing have affirmed our interdependence on each other.
- We are struggling with how to keep our church growing in the midst of societal changes and de-emphasis on organized religion.

Pastoral Direction

- We are looking for a permanent pastor who wants to live in and be an integral part of a small town, as well as be involved within that community both professionally and personally, and help to share ideas of how to more effectively invite the community into our church.
- We are looking for a pastor that challenges us, our world-views, and assists us in navigating a changing world. This includes providing weekly sermons that are innovative and creative, theologically focused, fun, and brings the history of the bible to the forefront, assisting our congregation in applying concepts to our everyday lives and community involvement.
- An individual who sees themselves as a facilitative leader, faithfully listening and discerning God's presence with all members and faithful friends of our congregation and the community, and working with all to more fully discern the presence of God in our lives.

Future of Our Church

- To be welcoming to all people - an open and affirming congregation in all that we do.
- A focus on fostering transformational and long-term relationships within our community, both locally and globally, that continues to increase our social justice to all.
- We are discerning how to expand the use of our facility to support and outreach to our community in a more robust way, thereby promoting more transformational and long-term relationships.
- While a challenge, we realize we need to adopt and become more sophisticated in our increased use of technology to outreach in greater ways within our community.