

Priorities 2008

A small group of board members met to discuss the priorities that we need to keep before us as we make the transition into our renewed facility. They based their work on information from the Key Leaders Retreat held on November 24, 2007 as well as on their awareness of the various groups and committees within the congregation. These priorities are offered for your reflection. We invite your input as to how we can act on these priorities. *Please contact Gail Dennis-Moisey (652-4941) or Rev. Susan or Rev. David (652-3168) to offer your ideas and reflections.*

The six priorities or theme areas for our life together as a congregation in the next two years:

1. Children & Youth Ministry

- exploring new possibilities for youth ministry with the possibilities created by our new space
- working toward the hiring of a youth worker
- reconnecting the Children's Worship program to their potential in our new Church home

2. Welcoming

- welcoming new people
- welcoming new small groups that we start
- welcoming rentals of our facility that fit with our purpose as God's people
- a welcoming table and info person to greet people as they come in
- welcoming and thank you events

3. Re-Connecting

- re-connecting with people who, for a variety of reasons, were unable to worship with us while we were out of our building
- re-connecting with some ministries like Healing Touch that found it hard to stay active while out of the building
- reconnecting as a congregation as people/groups come back from meeting in a variety of places

4. Communication

- be attentive to our communication especially in the areas of finances and activities
- use our Website to its fullest

5. Cherish, Nurture, Re-Energize

- expressing gratitude to and nurturing the energy of past, present, future volunteers

6. Technology

- learn about the new technology so that it will sweeten our worship experience and be seamless and un-noticeable.
- find people, young and old, who can run the new equipment as "their ministry"



The Soul of High River United Church

as described at the Key Leaders Retreat, Nov. 24, 2007

What are our Core Values as a congregation?

- help, home and hope are how we live out our worship; a product of worshipping well
- need to clearly name worshipping God as a core value and not just focus on the doing
- we are on The Way....People of The Way (1st term used in Acts to describe followers of Jesus)
- We are rooted in the Christian tradition.
- We are discovering who God is within us.
- We are not just doing help, home and hope within our 4 walls, but out in the community for everyone, not just for our members.
- We are a little bit outside the box.
- We will soon be “united” as we come back from being scattered in the community but we are really a “Uniting” church , not past tense “united.”
- Unity is a value; respect for different people and different perspectives.
- Being welcoming and inviting is important to us.
- Our care of each other is important, especially care for the needs of the various generations.
- Our building is just a building, just walls. We don't worship the building. Building is home base from which we go out as God's people into the world.
- Our energy will be set free once the building is done.
- New gifts are being called from within the congregation.
- Our building states our mission.

What are our Core Abilities as High River United?

music	compassion
commitment	clarity
energy	becoming one body, not separate parts
community	outreach
willing to be works in progress—malleable	bubbly enthusiasm
desire to learn and grow	spiritual depth
willingness to be open to the Spirit	risk taking
variety of small groups/study groups	healing ministry
worship	ministers' work
cooperation	good at socializing especially if there is cake or soup and bun

What is the Core Knowledge of High River United?

- We can help anyone with anything that is needed. We can do it!
- We are ready and willing.
- We have space, time, energy and money to offer.
- Nothing is impossible.
- Between us we can do it!
- We can worship God and meet in a variety of places and we are still church.
- We can go out and come back!
- We can move beyond our walls.
- We are on The Way!

What are the Shadows of High River United?

(things that can get in the way of living our mission as God's people if we don't name them)

- Keeping tradition is important but it can get in the way of change when we need to change.
- We are upper middle class, quite well educated, pretty well dressed, nice cars. Are we intimidating to those who don't fit that description? Is it hard for non-middle class to come in?
- The language that different generations use can get in the way of understanding one another.
- Children are welcome with their noise and busy-ness but do we give out that message?
- Relationship with youth: where is it at? What do we need to do to connect....such as music? How do we develop mutual respect with youth?
- How do we nurture and involve youth and children in our midst even as we have a huge base of senior members?