

Programs

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

- We will hire a Youth Minister.
- We will add an Adult Ministry team to focus on adult education and programs for singles, couples and persons facing life's challenges.
- We will place a stronger emphasis on missions, both locally and throughout the world. This will help us grow in Christian love for persons in need and continue building community among our congregation. We will challenge everyone to participate in at least one mission project annually.

Growth

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

- The Worship Committee will create a plan to accommodate continued congregational growth. The plan will include an on-going assessment of the need for and feasibility of new construction, such as a new sanctuary.
- Continually enhancing accessibility must remain a top priority. The Chapel is an excellent first step toward achieving physical accessibility.
- We will set clear goals for attracting new members and form plans to meet those goals. At least two open houses will be held annually to introduce Millburn Church to interested persons. Current attendees will be challenged to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives to attend worship and church activities.

The Visioning Committee:

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A Vision for our Future



*A roadmap for a
vital community of faith*

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



**Millburn Congregational
United Church of Christ**

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Since 2009, members of the Visioning Committee have explored and prayerfully considered the future of Millburn Congregational United Church of Christ. These parishioners have given many hours to listen for God's message as well as input from insight shared through focus groups and feedback sessions. The following document incorporates the voices of many, to provide both a vision, and a suggested roadmap, for strengthening the spiritual community of our Millburn Church home.

Urgency

A change is happening in American culture in which people, especially young people, are increasingly embracing more inclusive expressions of religious faith. To meet these changing needs Millburn Church must nurture a way of being Christian that celebrates diversity and inclusiveness. Our response must be centered in the Gospel, in which Jesus extends extravagant welcome. Therefore we seek to reach out to all people through nonjudgmental and caring Christian love.

Mission Statement

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God as a spiritually alive church, welcoming all and reaching out with love as Christ's disciples.

Vision Statement

Millburn Church UCC is committed to spreading God's love to all members of the community. We actively invite and welcome people in all stages of their Christian journeys. We accept and embrace all kinds of diversity and value the unique perspectives, thoughts and experiences of each individual. We challenge ourselves to reach out as an integral part of our Christian life. We strive for worship experiences that are dynamic and engaging for all.

United as disciples of Jesus, Christ, growing in relationship with God and seeking justice both locally and throughout the world, we set the following vision path for Millburn Congregational UCC.

Call to Commitment

We recognize that secular organizations offer many opportunities for people to be in community. But we also affirm that Jesus Christ is the center of life, and that the Christian life is experienced mainly in community. Therefore we aim to nurture the sense that the church and its ministries come first in the lives of our members and friends.

The Vision Path...

Discipleship

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-14

- Creating a strong church requires everyone to participate fully in the life of our church and work together to carry out God's mission for our church. In 2011, a new Discipleship Team will help church leaders spread the word about the importance of active participation by all and help find ways to encourage such participation. The Discipleship Team will foster opportunities for optimizing our church's time, talent and treasure and offer support for fundraising.
- To prepare our volunteer leaders for future challenges and help them facilitate transformative change, the Discipleship Team will identify training opportunities

for lay leadership. Ways to increase volunteer participation and leadership will be explored and recommendations for improvement made.

- At least twice annually, the congregation will receive overviews of the church's financial condition. Reports will be presented in The Messenger and during worship to keep the congregation continually appraised and, through narrative examples, celebrate the good that our vital discipleship has achieved.
- To prepare for the longer term needs of our church, the Board will present a two-year budget in 2012. The biennial budget will incorporate the body's primary goals and identify the resources necessary to accomplish them.

Worship

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Psalm 100:1-2,4

- The Worship Committee will reorganize to include a focus on the worship service, assist in worship planning and in exploring alternative forms of worship.
- We will build on our welcoming and hospitality ministry to fully achieve the UCC's goal of 'Extravagant Welcome' as it pertains to both our facility and our faith.
- At least two guest presenters will address the congregation in 2011 to share their ministries. The speakers will be chosen from the areas of spirituality, stewardship and diversity.
- In 2011, the Worship Committee will arrange at least one event in which we worship and/or gather with members of a UCC congregation that has a different makeup than ours.