

**Worthington United Methodist Church Vision**  
**Building a More Diverse and Open Community of Committed Christian Servants**

**2018 REPORT on GOALS**

*1. Create Welcoming Atmosphere which Values, Supports and Cultivates Diversity*

**Seek ways to attract attention of diverse worshippers and develop programs of interest to a diverse population.**

*Some of this year's efforts to address a variety of interests and draw on those outside our church community are:*

- *Discovery: Seekers Sunday School class for exploring faith development, website upgrades focused on non-members*
- *Serving: monthly community meal, serving a meal at Drug Free Worthington session, opening church for Worthington holiday event and serving refreshments, Pack Shack*
- *Hosting: Martin Luther King, Jr. event, OhioHealth Memorial services, Illuminati Concert, ProMusica Concerts, International Children's Choir Concerts, concerts on the lawn, intentional about being open for funerals and weddings of persons outside congregation, offering greeting and refreshments during elections*

**Expand worship variety**

*Sunday service: Summer early service, hold services outside when feasible*

- *Other services: Animal Blessing, Taize, worship with St. John's AME, Nativity outside, Christmas caroling*
- *Music: Godspell performance planned and produced by volunteers, hand bell choir includes youth and family*

**Strengthen opportunities for young adults and teens. Intentionally make changes to involve and attract young adults and young families.**

*We offer a wide variety of programming to provide different ways for children and youth to connect to the church-*

- *Listening: gather feedback from youth, young families included in planning. Hold one day new membership class to accommodate busy life styles. Offer nut-free table at hospitality time*

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- *Expand Reach: efficient planning to make events more affordable, scheduling with consideration for competing activities, musical opportunities at all ages including Youth Choir*
- *Education: Children's Church during service, Sunday school, senior high Devos during week*
- *Connection: Add youth representatives to Administrative Council, expand digital presence, childcare throughout Sunday morning and as needed for meetings/other events, monthly Family Ministry Team events, care packages for new babies and college students*

## **2. Deepen Outreach, Social Justice and Witness**

**Analyze the demographics and needs of our immediate neighborhood. Identify ways to address specific needs.**

*We are intentionally investigating ways to expand our outreach within the circle of our community and searching for ways to serve that broaden those involved beyond the very committed Outreach Committee and Mission Trip servants*

- *Consider neighborhood needs with other United Methodist churches*
- *Served during Worthington Outdoor Farmers' Market by providing Relaxation Station: respite offered with seating, water, open restrooms and sidewalk chalk and bubbles for children*
- *Plan for installing Peace Poles*
- *Serve as chartering organization for Venturing Team for Boy Scouts of America*
- *Horizon Prison Ministries session sponsored by UMW*
- *Became sponsoring organization for young women to participate in Boy Scouts of America*

**Partner with nearby churches to learn and share opportunities and gifts.**

- *Exploring opportunities in Northland area with other United Methodist churches and the district office*
- *Sharing worship time with St John's AME*
- *Volunteer at New Life and Worthington Resource Pantry*
- *Participate in and support Worthington Interfaith Network*
- *Immunization Clinic, Back packs for UMCH, many on-going outreach ministries*

## **3. Improve Stewardship, Nurture Generosity & Involvement**

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**Promote study groups that provide short-term, broad-based learning opportunities.**

*We are expanding the number and variety of limited term classes and improving the material available for self-study*

- *Short-term classes: Anatomy of Peace, Lenten study, Advent study, Social Principals class, TED Talk class, study Rob Bell CDs, Seeker class, mid-week Bible study, Opioid Addiction class, Armed Intruder Readiness*
- *Self-study: continuing to review and update Library material*
- *Active Parenting Class for parents of 5-12 year olds*
- *Financial planning class*

**Sponsor social grouping/gatherings to partner people and achieve involvement.**

*Around the Table dinner group, Wine tasting, UMW Circles, conversation groups*

- *Teddy Bear Tea conversation event*
- *Sharing and learning: How to Make Fruitcake class, Beyond the Pencil art class, Iftar dinner*

**Continue with expanding ways to give and communicating needs.**

- *Giving options: installed giving station, discuss UMCOR*
- *Information: financial updates, promote emerging needs, stewardship moments*
- *Communication variety: email, Sunday morning projection, Facebook. Revamped Every Member in Ministry to focus on family friendly and one-time opportunities*