



Larchmont United Methodist Church

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Larchmont United Methodist Church Strategic Plan

August 2013

Your Administrative Council is happy to present the Larchmont United Methodist Church Strategic Plan. It contains the Guiding Principles, Mission, Strategic Goals, and Strategic Objectives that will lead us toward God's Vision for our church. Our Strategic Plan: (1) supports the United Methodist Church's Mission "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," and (2) is informed by and does not supersede the authority of the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

Although this document provides the framework for our Plan, the key to its success lies in the actions taken and decisions made by each and every member of our church family. This Plan will be reviewed and revised periodically based on measured results. We recommend every church family member prayerfully consider how to make our Plan a useful, living document.

1. **Guiding Principles**. Guiding Principles provide the foundation for the entire Strategic Planning Process and for this Strategic Plan.
 - a. **Prayerful Discernment** – Everything we do is preceded by taking time to sit, pray, and listen to God's plan for us, both individually and as a church family.
 - b. **Transparency** – Information leads to knowledge; knowledge leads to wisdom; and wisdom leads to God-inspired action.
 - c. **Inclusive Participation** – Seeking input from all members of our church family without judgment, everything we do is with respectful consideration of all views.
2. **Mission**. Our Mission states what we believe we are charged by God to do and describes our current state.

The mission of Larchmont United Methodist Church is to reach out to our community and world by personal witness and example and by sharing the Good News of God's redeeming love found in Jesus Christ through worship, programs, and mission work near and far.

3. **Vision.** Our Vision defines a future-state to which we believe God is leading us as a church family. The Vision will serve to guide our day-to-day activities and decisions. Our Administrative Council, Boards, Committees, staff, and church family prayerfully will consider how each activity undertaken and each decision made will contribute to attaining God's Vision for us.

We are an active, involved, Christ-centered church family concerned about the welfare of neighbors near and far—believers committed to continually demonstrating Christ's love for all people through fellowship and outreach.

4. **Strategic Goals and Objectives.** Strategic Goals and Objectives define broad areas within which we will work to achieve our Vision. Actions, which must include measurable goals and responsible parties, developed under each Strategic Objective ensure we reach our Vision.

a. Strategic Goal: Spiritual Growth and Fellowship

We are a welcoming church family where relationships are strengthened through spiritual growth and established through fellowship.

Strategic Objectives

- 1) Spiritual growth opportunities strengthen our relationships with others, but are focused on our relationship with God so that we may live out a Christ-centered life.
 - i. We actively search for new service, stewardship, and educational opportunities that lead to individual and church-wide spiritual growth.
 - ii. Through varied styles and music programs, our worship practices inspire Christ-centered living and fill us with the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Fellowship activities establish and strengthen our relationships with each other.

b. Strategic Goal: Significant Relational Groups (SRGs)

Significant Relational Groups, * of varying size and composition, offer activities that enable spiritual growth, personal development, and fellowship; they also provide gateway opportunities and experiences.

** SRG defined: members of the church family and the larger community united by a common bond or interest.*

Strategic Objectives

- 1) Worship, our largest SRG, engages the church family in “an encounter with the living God through the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit [such that w]hen the people of God gather, the Spirit is free to move them to worship in diverse ways, according to their needs” (from the United Methodist Book of Worship) and—in response—inspires participants to do good acts in the community and in their own lives, improving our discipleship and creating new outreach activities.
- 2) SRG activities engage members of our church family from baptism to burial.
 - i. Our children and youth programs provide the spiritual foundation for a lifetime.
 - ii. Our programs for young adults increase retention of existing members and bring in new members.
 - iii. Frequent family-oriented programs include members of the neighborhood.
 - iv. Our men's and women's groups encourage fellowship and service while facilitating spiritual growth.
 - v. Our programs for senior members offer activities and ministries unique to their needs.
- 3) SRGs provide the framework for active outreach and community service programs.
 - i. We regularly create and support local group ministries with a social justice emphasis (examples: Park Place Soup Kitchen, NEST, Food Pantry).
 - ii. We participate in world missions to engage more members of the church family in missions.

c. Strategic Goal: Facilities

Our facilities are inviting, well maintained, and optimally managed, enabling the church family to achieve its Mission and Vision.

Strategic Objectives

- 1) We are good stewards of our God-given resources.
- 2) Our facilities support known church family needs and readily adapt to future needs.
- 3) Our facilities enable gateway activities.

d. Strategic Goal: Administration

Our pastors, professional staff, and lay administrative organization enable the church family to achieve its Mission and Vision.

Strategic Objectives

- 1) Our pastors are provided resources for continuing education and support for their ministry.
- 2) Our professional staff members have clearly defined expectations and are provided resources for professional development.
- 3) Our ministry and outreach activities are effective and efficient.
- 4) We prudently plan how we accrue and manage our financial resources.
- 5) We promote open communication with the church and our larger community.

Approved:  Date: 10/9/2013

David Lannetti
Chair, LUMC Administrative Council

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