

Moving Forward Together in Faith **Highlights of Ideas Shared at the April 26 Gathering**

On April 26 we gathered to pray, listen, share and dream. We thank God for filling us with such a good and willing spirit to be the Body of Christ! In table groups we brain-stormed responses to the question: *What are the three most important steps we need to take as a congregation to move forward?* All of the responses have been reviewed. Happily, the responses were many and coordinated themes naturally emerged. We're on the same path! Here are the highlights.

Pastor and Leadership Staff – Lead the Vision and Set the Climate of MLC

- Positive energy, enthusiasm, joy, renewal
- Dynamic leadership

Congregational Life

- Bible Study/Education
- Fellowship opportunities
- Develop small groups/ build relationships – have existing small groups provide mentoring and tips for those who would like to form new small groups → increase the connections between us
- Outreach to members (visitation, phone calls—approach determined by demographic)
- Energize volunteers/ recruit more volunteers
- Interview new members – find out what drew them to MLC and help make them feel at home in the congregation
- Increase effectiveness of communication methods, including use of new technologies

Youth and Family

- Increase involvement in Sunday school
- Integrate children and youth – find more ways for them to serve and be involved
- Youth events and activities
- Family events for younger children
- Develop ministry that will interest post-Affirmation of Baptism participation
- Outreach to youth – how can we help them be active in the church

Worship/Music

- Inspiring worship services, message of hope, uplifting music

Our Greater Community: Service/ Evangelism/Mission

- Community outreach and visibility – invite community into church
- Ministry development incubator to support members with ideas and willingness to try out new ideas, receive support to implement
- “Advertise in person” by telling people about MLC
- Service projects (home repair/ yard work teams on-call, food pantry, homeless shelter, etc.)
- Mission trips

Finances and Stewardship

- Raise the funds to restore staffing and ministry budgets for the 2009/10 church fiscal year (campaign similar to the Roof Repair appeal?)
- Budgeting/money management classes (invite Thrivent or other experts)
- Educate congregation about church finances

Marketing: Demographics and Membership Roll review

- Define and communicate our congregation's identity and vision through actionable items
- Clarify membership and update church rolls

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO BE THERE!

**Thursday, June 4
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center**

For the next “*Moving Forward Together in Faith*” gathering

Child care will be available. We will review the responses from the April 26 meeting, gather additional ideas, discuss priorities, and begin to organize ourselves into work groups to achieve the improvements we want to see – together! All are invited and encouraged to attend (*whether you were able to attend the first meeting or not*).