

2023 CUMC Ministry Priorities

As a congregation we seek to focus our ministry efforts to best steward our time, resources, and spiritual gifts and live our mission to be about relationships with Christ, with one another, and with God's hurting world. In service of this mission, our lay and staff leaders worked over several weeks to purposefully elicit input, consolidate ideas, and discern ministry priorities for the year ahead. The following three priority areas are our focus for 2023:

- 1. Enhancing our visitor experience**
- 2. Supporting children and families**
- 3. Promoting stronger congregational connection**

As we consider the health and vitality of our congregation, and that of the United Methodist Church, it is essential that we put ourselves in a position to strengthen the bonds of our faith community. We do that by not only being a welcoming church, but also making it easy for visitors to integrate into the life of this congregation. Additionally, we should explore ways to support children and families. This demographic group has diverse needs and competing demands for time. We must evolve to engage them effectively. Finally, we proclaim that we are about relationships. Therefore, we must think creatively how to extend this mission by purposefully building and nurturing these relationships.

Enhancing our visitor experience

Our congregation has seen a growing number of visitors in recent months. We must do our best to be welcoming, informative, and helpful for those new to our congregation. These efforts touch numerous areas of the visitor experience from knowing where to go, what to expect on a Sunday morning, what services and opportunities are available, and how to connect with staff and church members. To effectively execute our commitment to welcome everyone, our church must consider how we contribute as greeters, welcome desk volunteers, worship ushers, and ambassadors for the ministries and groups that we support.

Supporting children and families

Our church is filled with families of diverse makeup. And our children and their caregivers have overlapping but distinct needs for spiritual growth. Growing numbers of children are active participants in worship and age-specific ministries. These ministry offerings require volunteer commitments, and we are called to contribute our time, attention, and gifts to support these young people as they grow in their faith.

Promoting stronger congregational connections

At CUMC, people from various ages, geographies, and faith backgrounds worship together. There are corporate worship opportunities, and there are numerous small groups such as Bible studies, book clubs, breakfast meetings, and outreach experiences. To offer fellowship opportunities that exist between these types of environments, we will focus on hosting a few church-wide events that are strategically planned and executed to generate connection across our varied membership cohorts. In doing so we can continue to deepen relationships and help visitors and new members forge connections in this community.

Next Steps

For these priorities, there are clear next steps that will advance each area. First, our church leaders are working to form a dedicated team that will develop a comprehensive and strategic approach to coordinating the visitor experience. Next, we will undertake a congregational effort to support children's

ministry efforts with sufficient volunteer engagement to help their ministry goals become reality. Finally, the church will be coordinating four large scale connection opportunities that will purposefully promote interaction to forge new connections between people who do not yet know one another, and strengthen existing relationships.

What can you do?

There will be a multi-faceted approach to generating support and commitments in each of these areas. In the meantime, if you have an interest, question, or already feel called to participate in one of these priorities, please send a note to jayccarnes@gmail.com and he can connect you to get involved.

Thank you for helping our faith community flourish!