

Summary of Prayer Triplet Insights About God's Future for Our Congregation

Rev. July 21, 2011

Vision and Sense of Purpose/Direction:

- *develop a strong, clear and passionate sense of vision/identity (mentioned frequently)
- *focus on attracting people to a Christ-centered faith journey and helping them mature in their faith (mentioned frequently)
- *Focus on creating and nurturing relationships, especially people's relationship with Christ, rather than programs and events (mentioned frequently)
- *Identify ministry priorities and focus our attention in those directions
- * focus on outreach and evangelism (mentioned frequently)
- *focus on church covenant
- *be externally focused while maintaining care for members
- *passion of overall congregation is unpredictable and inconsistent
- *focus on feeding people spiritually
- *promote Christ and God's truth, not church activities

Pastoral Leadership:

- *Our pastor and other staff are committed to transition and supported by the congregation/ strong pastoral leadership is a strength (mentioned frequently)
- *new staff has been welcomed and are fitting in
- *regularly seek the input of an independent consultant to review staffing patterns and salaries

Lay Leadership:

- *too few people in leadership roles (a lot of the same people doing everything) (mentioned frequently)
- *Management systems should empower rather than control/ top-heavy management needs to be streamlined/too cumbersome (mentioned frequently)
- *need to restructure lay leadership
- *make people of position and the people of passion the same people
- *deacons should be following biblical model of servanthood rather than serving as a board
- *members need to be more involved in volunteering in various church ministries and giving of their resources/ involve members in things that matter and opportunities for service (mentioned frequently)
- *decision making is open and responsive to congregational input
- *strong commitment to maintain what is positive, but weaker commitment to change
- *long range planning is needed
- *staff and staff spouses should not serve on Deacons, Finance, and Personnel due to potential conflicts of interest

Community Involvement and Outreach/Missions/Evangelism:

- *invitational to groups that use our buildings/ use these as mission opportunities (mentioned frequently)
- *new website is helpful in reaching new people

- *Our growth in attendance/membership does not reflect the demographics of our community/church isn't growing in proportion to our community (mentioned frequently)
- *Specific programs needed for target groups: Men's Bible Study, music programs for youth and children, women's softball, college students, WMU, Wed night dinners, single adults
- *increase follow up with absentees from worship and Sunday School/ follow up with visitors and new members
- *continue current mission activities
- *address community needs/ Make Masonboro the center of the community / reach out to families that live in our neighborhood (mentioned frequently)
- *creatively spread the good news without visiting people's homes/ discover new ways of witnessing (mentioned frequently)
- *attract younger people to our congregation
- *be truly welcoming to all in our actions as well as our words/ increase in friendliness and openness to new people (mentioned frequently)
- *encourage diversity in membership (mentioned frequently)
- *focus missions resources locally and to the western hemisphere for more efficient use of resources

Discipleship/Christian Education/Care of Congregation/Fellowship:

- *low attendance in Sunday School/ need to restructure Sunday School (mentioned frequently)
- *Increase emphasis on discipleship and accountability among members
- *strengthen commitment to prayer/ establish prayer chain/pray for church leaders (mentioned frequently)
- *address and resolve underlying issues that distract us from unity and produce unhealthy conflict/forgive one another (mentioned frequently)
- *encourage intermingling and fellowship among members in a variety of venues (Wed dinners, special events, across worship services, etc) (mentioned frequently)
- *increase communication via a phone tree
- *strong sense of love for one another/ congregation is well cared for
- *help older members be more comfortable with our spiritual strategic journey
- *fellowship and Bible study in smaller groups for Sunday School is a strength
- *include more people from both services and Sunday School classes in the fellowship time

Worship:

- *adjust worship order so greeting time/announcements don't interrupt flow of worship
- *pulpit exchange with pastors from other ethnic groups
- *congregation has responded positively to two service options
- *worship planning by the staff that reflects connectivity and long term planning
- *balanced worship that doesn't focus primarily on preaching and/or music, but equally includes other worship elements
- *involve all ages in worship leadership

Other:

*church calendar and budget need to reflect our main priorities as established by Scripture

*finances are healthy, but could be better

*new church directory/ do not distinguish between active/non-active in directory