

North Chapel

Next Steps for Our Future in Focus

North Chapel Universalist Society
Woodstock, VT

9 February 2015

Goals for planning

The Planning Committee's work was guided by its goal to create unifying themes that:

1. Enable the church to continue to live into the fullest expression of its vision and mission, in light of current and anticipated needs and conditions.
2. Inspire the imagination of the church community and coalesces its energy toward a clear, collective purpose.
3. Guide the church's planning, choices, actions, and use of resources in the near-term (three to five years).

Themes

Celebrate	Broaden	Deepen	Commit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our loving, caring, diverse community • Being a place to seek spiritual insight with freedom from judgment • Our rich offerings of music, poetry, reflection and beauty • Our role in initiating social change • DANIEL! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively, profoundly welcome everyone • Serve as a sanctuary • Attract, engage and support families, children, and adolescents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support interaction across generations • Enable people to relate more deeply and authentically to themselves and to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support existing projects • Continue discussion and learning about how North Chapel should play its part • Make responding to the climate crisis our number one priority

Organize

- Support effective, inclusive and transparent lay leadership.
- Stay focused on priorities, while being responsive, flexible and nimble.
- Carry out the community's work in a way that allows people to thrive, without overburdening a few.
- Practice skillful engagement with matters involving change, so that new possibilities can be aired, vetted, and considered without polarization.
- Create longer-term plans for buildings and infrastructure to reflect community needs.
- Expand financial resources through effective internal and external fund raising, to provide reasonable stability and sufficient funding to achieve community priorities.

Themes

Celebrate	Broaden	Deepen	Commit
<p>and support ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral/Community Care • Elders Circle • Clearness Committee • Contemplative practices • Social-justice actions (Food Shelf, Gun Sense, Other?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Youth Education and Engagement Committee • Welcoming and Engagement Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfigure space to serve small groups, sanctuary, chapel • Next phase: revive Covenant Groups; offer more small groups; expand contemplative practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel to convene study/action group on climate crisis • Make North Chapel carbon-neutral by 2020

Organize

- Board responsibility, in cooperation with committees:
 - Vision-based organization
 - Shared process/leadership
 - Leadership development
- Simplify committee structure

Celebrate (and Support)

- **Community/Pastoral Care**
- **Clearness Committee**
- **Contemplative Practices**
- **Social justice actions (Food Shelf, Gun Sense, etc.)**

Broaden

- **Children & Youth Education and Engagement Committee**
 - RE
 - Mentoring
 - Child care development/support
 - Intergenerational activities
- **Welcoming and Engagement Committee**
 - Initial experience: Sunday service and coffee-hour
 - Follow up: getting to know you (tailored to person)
 - Orientation: getting to know the North Chapel
 - Engagement: Invitations to attend Circle Dinners, help with coffee hour; help with events, etc.
 - Integration: Invitations to serve on committees, be a service coordinator, engage in other leadership roles, etc.

Deepen

- **Reconfigure space to accommodate small groups, sanctuary, chapel**
- **Next phase:**
 - **Covenant Groups**
 - **Additional small groups**
 - **Additional opportunities for meditation/contemplative practices**

Commit

- **Daniel to convene study/action group to focus on the North Chapel's role in responding to climate change**
 - **What part should we play?**
 - **Spiritual/Physical plant/Community/Personal**
- **Make the North Chapel carbon-neutral by 2010**

Organize

- **Board responsibility in cooperation with committees:**
 - **Vision-based organization**
 - **Shared process/Leadership**
 - **Leadership development**
 - **Simplify committee structure**