

CHULA VISTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MISSION STUDY 2005

MISSION STATEMENT

We intend to know Christ and to make Him known.

Our vision for Chula Vista Presbyterian Church is to build and nurture a growing, vibrant congregation and fellowship for the purpose of discerning, illuminating and implementing Christ's plan for right living in both a temporal and spiritual way. We will

- Love and obey God, follow Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit share with others the story of God's love, forgiveness and grace.
- Respond to the grace of God by creating a community of concern and commitment that exhibits the presence of the risen Christ.
- Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed.
- Provide lifelong nurture, support and encouragement for the Christian life.
- Equip each other for Christian ministry.
- Exercise faith through caring service to others in Christ's name.
- Commit our lives and substance to the work of Christ's church and the care of God's good creation.

HARD QUESTIONS

After reviewing the responses from the rainbow survey, several “hard questions” emerged which the committee discussed. Our discussions have then led to the goals we developed.

How do we confront the dilemma of serving an aging congregation, meeting their needs and provide outreach and programming for younger families?

How can we develop a welcoming attitude toward youth providing dynamic leadership and involving them in the full life of the church?

How does a church with a building debt design budgets that will permit new programs?

How does CVPC change its insular, *cul de sac* mentality and seek new members?

Can we have a worship experience that reaches those who want tradition and those who want current expressions in music and style?

MISSION STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED GOALS

1. Develop and expand membership to 400 members by 2010.

Strategies to consider: Increase visibility. We need to be seen as “doing something” in the community. We want to establish ourselves as a center of the community. Ways we might do this: continue BonitaFest. Add Lemon Festival, Farmer’s Market, sponsor highway clean-up. Contact would be made to low attendees inquiring what needs are not being met. Start a campaign to invite people entitled, “Come home to the Presbyterian Church.”

2. Develop, budget for and implement a communications plan within 2 years for the purpose of increasing visibility and communication with the public and one another.

Strategies to consider: For military – have a liaison to base and hospital chaplains as well as those who provide information and services to those new to the area.

Have a brochure or booklet that lists all of our events, both those we run (like Bible study, men’s and women’s groups, services, etc.) and those we host at CVPC.

Check on the signs leading to our church – are they clean, visible enough?

Have committees featured one per month in the Celtic. Have the committee structure on the website.

Have a Meet Your Session Sunday regularly where folks go to each table for information about committees. Maybe have a card that needs to be stamped or signed that they could complete and put in for a prize.

Make our story known within CVPC.

Advertise church events in community places, such as “The Lake.”

Contact new military families when they move in.

Consider having our information answer the following questions: What do we stand for? What do we teach?

3. Expand worship opportunities by adding at least one additional weekly service by the end of 2006.

Strategies to consider: Consider multiple ways and times to worship – Saturday evening, mid-week service (to build on WOW and Youth Programs), later on Sundays. Have prayer services, meditative services, praise services, etc.

4. Provide opportunities for spiritual growth of members of all ages and all stages of spiritual development by end of 2007.

Strategies to consider: Address difficult contemporary issues – maybe start in small groups. Address the question: How are we to live? How about get-away retreats? Implement again efforts such as several small Bible study groups, maybe one aimed at young couples.

5. Implement new means of serving congregation and community.

Strategies to consider: Make a matrix identifying current programs to see where needs are. Consider mentoring programs (foster grandparents, extended family), elder ministry, community classes, outreach to Spanish speaking community (perhaps beginning with Bible study), have program with appropriate “kid” care – those who are too old for the nursery but not old enough to be left home alone. Expand pre-school to Family Life Center. Have a visitation, in addition to Deacons, for shut-ins, a chat, or a cup of tea. Consider a “handyman” group to assist seniors. Establish a school program – a safe place for kids. Expand pre-school and consider day care. Babysitting network for new family members. Host a babysitting event for children before Christmas so that parents can go shopping – have pizza, kids bring pajamas.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP OR ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Our data collection and analysis has led us to the following recommendations

- 1 – CVPC wants to be a *corporate size church* (350 – 500 plus)
- 2 – We need a pastor and associate pastor model in order to build and maintain the congregation.
- 3 – Our budget must not define us but rather we define the goals, then build the budget.
- 4 – Session’s committees need time to dream altogether
- 5 – Use assets and facilities better to generate income and serve the community.

1 – CVPC wants to be a corporate size church

According to Alice Mann, “the corporate size church (350 – 500 plus) is a significant institutional presence in its community. It may have a cathedral-like building in a prominent location, associated institutions like a day school or community center, and a sizable staff of highly skilled professionals. This larger congregation can provide ‘something for everybody’ – a variety of different kinds of worship, education, spiritual nurture, and social interaction. It also provides a visitor the chance to remain anonymous for a while – a plus for some people ... who may not want to make commitments right away. Sometimes this congregation attracts into membership key leaders from the wider community because of its substantial presence. ‘Tall steeple churches’ usually seek ‘tall-steeple pastors’ – clergy with a sufficient symbolic presence to focus a large worship service, head an extensive staff, and challenge powerful lay leaders with a bold and unifying purpose.”

The vision to be this size and type of church would fill the span of needs/desires of those who worship here – multiple types and styles of worship, education and activities for young, old and everything in between.

2 – We need a pastor and associate pastor model in order to build and maintain congregants.

One full time pastor cannot meet the needs of a 400 member church. However, on the way to getting there, we should set milestones or benchmarks so that the pastor and congregation know when the search for an associate pastor will begin.

The model most favored is to have an associate pastor who can also serve as the youth pastor. While it may be true that this person will stay only until they are called to their own congregation, it is just this type of person who has the desire to help us build the congregation.

3 – Our budget must not define us but rather we define the goals, then build the budget.

It seems that lately we have let our budget define who we will be. People express that the loan on the FLC seems to be overwhelming and that we won’t be able to do anything until that is paid off. However, they also acknowledge that by then there may be no CVPC left.

We need to set the vision and choose big, long-term, far-reaching projects that get us closer to our vision. Then, we can sit down with the budget and perhaps, re-do it entirely by putting all the funds into one big pot and fund projects that help us attain the vision. Some creative thinking and implementation may help us fund the smaller on-going projects.

A budget can be viewed as a visionary document. One should be able to see from our budget, where our priorities are and what our dreams are.

4 – Session’s committees need time to dream altogether.

Session’s committees do their jobs of maintaining – but where do we dream and plan all together to make the dream happen? If we are to take on the vision of 400 members involved in a vibrant community of believers, we might need to continue some of the committee’s works and redesign others. That is, get out of a “silo” mentality that keeps committees apart and instead, each contribute toward the vision while keeping the ongoing tasks (which remain important) going.

5 – Assets and facilities need to be put to good use to generate income and serve the community.

A discussion about the possibilities of greater use for the Family Life Center is necessary. There are ways to build in fees that would cover the increased use of the center. Having the community come to CVPC for a variety of activities may encourage them to worship with us.