



LONG RANGE VISION CELEBRATIONS 2007-2010

As the Long Range Vision Planning committee looks toward the future and begins the work of prayerfully considering what mission and ministry we believe God is asking of Flossmoor Community Church in the *coming* 3 years (July 2010-July 2013), we would like to take some time to look back and reflect on the work that has been done and accomplished in His name over the *past* 3 years. And so it is with great JOY and CELEBRATION that we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all of our boards and committees and to give thanks for the following successes. (listed in no particular order)

Worship and Arts:

- Explored and initiated additional opportunities for children and youth to participate, lead and connect with the worship experience.
- Encouraged youth participation in choirs

Properties:

- Resurfaced all parking lots, ensuring adequate handicap and bicycle parking
- Established a 'Weekly Weeders' group
- Replaced the phone system (adding a PA component)
- Continued awareness and improvement in Earth Stewardship

Personnel:

- Completed, and is maintaining, full implementation of child protection and sexual harassment policies.

Finance:

- Financial policy operational manual created for both church and weekday preschool.

Foundation:

- Christian Money Management workshop/course scheduled for February 2010 entitled "Finance Workshop for Challenging Times". (This is in partnership with Adult Ed)

Christian Education (Adult Ed):

- Established 'Connections' which is a small group Bible study, prayer and support group, which meets on a regular basis. Two 'Connections' groups continue to meet.
- Various and numerous Adult Education opportunities continue to be offered on Sunday mornings.
- Christian Money Management workshop/course scheduled for February 2010 entitled "Finance Workshop for Challenging Times". (This is in partnership with Foundation)

Board of Congregational Life:

- Launched a new fellowship group for singles, age 40-65, called 'Single Serving'
- Participation in Homewood's July 4th parade with special 'give aways' promoting FCC and its website.
- Provided various fellowship activities targeting both specific demographics within our church family and opportunities for the whole church to gather to 'break bread'.

Diaconate:

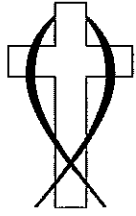
- Established a list of community health resources (i.e. home health care, assisted living facilities, nursing homes)

Outreach Ministries:

- Deepened our commitment to mission partnerships beyond check writing and is communicating this objective to the congregation by establishing monthly 'Second Sunday' meetings.
- Completed guiding principles for giving and defined criteria against which mission opportunities are measured.
- Reviewed and updated college and seminary scholarship processes to ensure clarity and transparency.

Lay Ministries:

- Creation of 'Heavenly Hosts' teams
- Initiation of the '5 minute rule'
- Initiated Nehemiah ministry to connect with inactive members
- Creation of Communications Audit Committee



FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

2010-2013 LONG RANGE VISION STATEMENT

I. Jesus Christ is Central. *We seek, above all, to know, love, serve and follow Jesus Christ faithfully.*

The central vision of Flossmoor Community Church, from which all of its missions, activities and programs flow, is expressed in this Core Value and in our God's command to love one another.

II. Diversity is Cherished. *Guided by Christ's example, we strive to embrace all humanity with love and without judgment.*

1. FCC will set annual goal(s) relative to the diversity of our surrounding community to better-welcome diverse groups into our Church. *Lead Responsibility: Lay Ministries; Diversity Task Force; Growth & Development Task Force*
2. FCC intends to better understand the demographics of its membership and upon that understanding to connect our members across diverse groups and to involve all in the life of our Church. *Lead Responsibility: Congregational Life; Lay Ministries; Growth & Development Task Force*

III. Worship is Indispensable. *With open hearts and active minds we offer our worship to God with humility and joy. We honor the breadth of worship expressions, blending cherished traditions with energizing new ideas.*

3. FCC will continue its tradition of excellent worship of the Triune God. In consultation with the Senior Pastor, FCC will consider forming a worship team for coordinating worship and exploring creative worship. *Lead Responsibility: Worship & Arts*
4. FCC will continue expanding the role of the Church's youth and children in worship. *Lead Responsibility: Worship & Arts; Christian Education*
5. FCC will develop vital and active ministry teams for welcoming, liturgy, ushering and greeting. *Lead Responsibility: Worship & Arts; Lay Ministries*

IV. All are Ministers. Using our God-given gifts, each of us contributes to the mission and ministry of our church, that the kingdom of God on earth might more resemble the one in heaven.

6. FCC will provide opportunities for Church members to discern and use their spiritual gifts. *Lead Responsibility: Worship & Arts; Lay Ministries; Nominating*

7. FCC will highlight the ministry of its boards and committees to the congregation through pulpit reports from selected boards and committees, and the use of appropriate technologies to inform and update Church members. *Lead Responsibility: Governing Board; Communications Task Force*

8. FCC will develop and nurture future lay leadership in the Church. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education; Nominating*

9. For lay leaders currently serving on boards and committees, FCC will create mentoring programs to develop and equip them for effective ministry. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education; Lay Ministries*

10. FCC will create the infrastructure necessary to gather, track, update and retrieve data about Church members' skills and gifts, and communicate gathered data to appropriate boards and committees. *Lead Responsibility: Nominating; Lay Ministries*

V. Grace is Given. Desiring to reflect the love and grace we ourselves have received, we strive to forgive, to speak the truth in love, and in all ways, to live out the kindness and compassion of Christ.

11. FCC will provide opportunities for members to demonstrate Christian love and grace through acts that meet the daily needs and concerns of our congregation and our neighbors. *Lead Responsibility: Outreach; Stewardship; Diaconate*

12. FCC will create ministries and educational programs to help Church members develop their own Christian spirituality so they may share the grace that we have received through faith in the risen Christ. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education*

VI. God's Word Informs and Guides. We endeavor to listen, think, question and open our lives to the Bible's guidance, inspiration and correction.

13. FCC will offer diverse educational programs of Biblical studies to deepen the faith of Church and community members. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education*

14. FCC will invite families with children in the preschool to explore membership and participation in the Church. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education; Preschool Task Force*

15. FCC will provide new ways for youth, confirmands and new members to engage in the life of the Church. *Lead Responsibility: Governing Board*

VII. Discipleship is Essential. Together we are on a lifelong journey of learning to live as ever more faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

16. FCC's boards and committees will engage Church members in short-term service opportunities in their ministries. *Lead Responsibility: Diaconate; Properties; Outreach; Christian Education; Lay Ministries; Stewardship*

17. FCC will foster Christian discipleship through education in Church history and the spiritual disciplines. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education*

VIII. Stewardship is Joyful. As caretakers of all that belongs to God, we are committed to caring well for God's good earth and we joyfully return our gifts of time, talent and treasure to support the church's mission and ministry.

18. FCC will develop a stewardship ethic in its children and youth. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education; Stewardship*

19. FCC will develop initiatives to encourage percentage giving as a goal for Church members. *Lead Responsibility: Stewardship; Finance*

20. FCC will implement and support environmentally focused "green" initiatives in the community. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education; Outreach*

21. FCC will create a position for a Church historian, to archive important Church records and help the Church tell its story. *Lead Responsibility: Stewardship*

22. In the spirit of stewarding God's workers, FCC will explore benefit options for its employees, including retirement benefits, health care and continuing education. *Lead Responsibility: Personnel*

23. FCC will continue stewarding God's house by maintaining an up-to-date Reserve Advisors' Report with a schedule for short and long term maintenance of the physical plant. *Lead Responsibility: Properties; Stewardship; Finance*

24. In anticipation of a needed decennial capital improvement plan, FCC will determine a strategy to develop such a plan by 2015. *Lead Responsibility: Properties; Stewardship; Finance*

IX. Compassion is Local and Global. *Longing for the wellbeing of all, through words, acts of caring, and financial support, we extend Christ's love and justice to our community and world.*

25. FCC will continue broadening the scope of its outreach to national and global needs. Toward this end, the Guatemala, New Orleans and Rebuilding Together team models may inspire this future outreach. *Lead Responsibility: Outreach*

26. FCC will increase its outreach ministries and Christian fellowship in the immediate geographical area through partnerships with local churches and school districts, and efforts such as the past Bethel reading program. *Lead Responsibility: Outreach*

27. FCC will increase funding for Outreach until we reach 10% of total pledged income. *Lead Responsibility: Finance; Stewardship; Outreach*

28. FCC will define and further develop the congregation's understanding of social justice, and develop hands-on programs of social justice ministries. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education; Outreach*

X. Caring Community Matters. *As the body of Christ, we come alongside the hurting, delight with the joyous, and care lovingly for those in need. As well, we relish all opportunities for fun and fellowship!*

29. Through contemporary media, FCC will make worship and educational programs available to shut-ins, college students, potential visitors, members and non-members in our broader community. *Lead Responsibility: Communications Task Force; Worship & Arts; Christian Education*

30. FCC will expand small group ministry through planned programs such as Connections, guided by the pastors and board and committee input. *Lead Responsibility: Lay Ministries; Christian Education*

31. FCC will expand the reach of its caring ministries by increasing awareness of the Diaconate Board and Stephen Ministry within the Church, and by inviting those ministries to extend their reach outside the Church. *Lead Responsibility: Diaconate; Growth & Development Task Force*

32. FCC will strengthen Christian parenting skills, healthy families and strong marriages through educational offerings, retreats and other appropriate methods. *Lead Responsibility: Christian Education*

XI. New Visions are Welcomed and Embraced. *Seeking to be a church for this and coming generations, we rely on the Holy Spirit's reforming and transforming presence as we work to better serve the needs of our community and world.*

33. FCC will develop a regular program of "cottage-type" meetings to be held in 2012 for input into the next Long Range Vision, and consider this process for each new Long Range Vision. *Lead Responsibility: Long Range Vision; Governing Board*

34. FCC will welcome and embrace new visions by finding improved ways to communicate the process of its governance and the work of its boards and committees. *Lead Responsibility: Governing Board*

35. FCC will extend its ministries to address issues and interests currently relevant in the community through public programs, presentations and educational offerings. *Lead Responsibility: Lay Ministries; Christian Education*

XII. We Seek and Welcome Newcomers. *We are intentional about spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in our surrounding communities by inviting friends and neighbors into worship, the life of discipleship, fellowship and service.*

36. FCC will develop and implement programs to grow its membership. *Lead Responsibility: Growth & Development Task Force*

37. FCC will redesign and expand the "Connect & Involve" program so that new members have increased, meaningful opportunities to serve and become involved in the life of the Church. *Lead Responsibility: Congregational Life; Lay Ministries*