



FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH

LONG RANGE VISION STATEMENT FINAL REVISED DRAFT

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.
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.

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.
4. FCC will continue expanding the role of the Church's youth and children in worship.
5. FCC will develop vital and active ministry teams for welcoming, liturgy, ushering and greeting.

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.
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.
8. FCC will develop and nurture future lay leadership in the Church.
9. For lay leaders currently serving on boards and committees, FCC will create mentoring programs to develop and equip them for effective ministry.
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.

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.
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.

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.
14. FCC will invite families with children in the pre-school to explore membership and participation in the Church.
15. FCC will provide new ways for youth, confirmands and new members to engage in the life of the Church.

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.

17. FCC will foster Christian discipleship through education in Church history and the spiritual disciplines.

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.

19. FCC will develop initiatives to encourage percentage giving as a goal for Church members.

20. FCC will implement and support environmentally focused "green" initiatives in the community.

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

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.

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.

24. In anticipation of a needed decennial capital improvement plan, FCC will determine a strategy to develop such a plan by 2015.

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.

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 Bethel reading program.

27. FCC will increase funding for Outreach until we reach 10% of total pledged income.

28. FCC will define and further develop the congregation's understanding of social justice, and develop hands-on programs of social justice ministries.

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.

30. FCC will expand small group ministry through planned programs such as Connections, guided by the pastors and board and committee input.

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.

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

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.

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.

35. FCC will extend its ministries to address issues and interests currently relevant in the community through public programs, presentations and educational offerings.

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.

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.