

FROM THE MINISTER

When I was hired by Evergreen, one of the things that was made clear to me was that this congregation wanted to thrive again, wanted to grow in the number of members and the ability to have a full-time minister on staff.

What is your compelling vision of Evergreen in 5-10 years?

The number one, most important building block for that to happen is a compelling vision of **where the Fellowship is headed. WITH** such a compelling vision, it becomes possible to evoke excitement and interest and energy - all vital ingredients to making a congregation thrive. **WITHOUT** such a compelling vision, it becomes really hard to evoke the excitement and interest and energy that are necessary to such thriving. Without such a compelling vision, we default expectation and obligation - which some people find persuasive, but most people just find uncomfortable.

We started talking about visioning back in March and had originally planned to spend seven weeks on it - but many folks asked us to slow down so that we could spend more time on it, so we did. Well, now we are reaching the end of that time. We will soon be wrapping up - so we need your visions!

In late October, we will hold focus groups to synthesize congregational visions.

BUT WAIT - synthesize them from what?!?

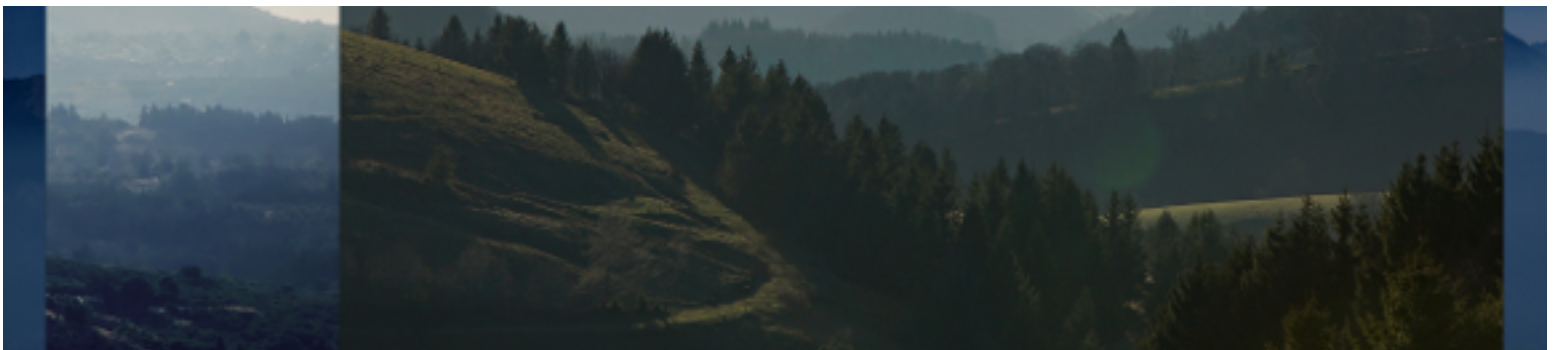
That's where you come in!

By the time we get to the focus groups in late October, we'll need lots and lots of visions submitted!

I'm hoping for **AT LEAST ONE** from every person in the Fellowship - but if there were ten for fifteen from each person, that would be even better! What would get you **ten times** as excited about Evergreen as you are now? If we could tell you one positive thing about Evergreen in ten years time that would have you heart skip a beat, what would that be?

And, remember: the key thing with these visions is **NOT** getting all the words right or having it be well-composed or anything. The **KEY THING** is for it to tap into whatever you're **POSITIVELY EXCITED** about Evergreen being in 5-10 years. Whatever thrills you, whatever gets your heart pumping. Post it in the #visioning channel in Slack or send it into the [Planning Team](#).

In faith,
Pr. Tom



NEWS FROM THE MISSION PLANNING TEAM

The Time Is Now Let Your Voice Be Heard

As Pastor Tom has shared in his article elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Visioning segment of the Mission/Vision process is soon drawing to a close. He has challenged everyone to submit at least one vision in the next few weeks so that we have 100% participation in the visioning for Evergreen's future in the next 5-10 years. Would you help us include your voice in that process?

We're living through a remarkable time. There has been an unscheduled and dramatic pause in the calendar of our lives -- in which we have had the opportunity to re-examine our priorities, our personal values, our vulnerabilities, our inner resources - and perhaps re-reaffirm what is really important to us, what we can live without, what we can tolerate, and what we can adjust to in order to sustain what is most essential. We will be forever changed by this period of isolation that we have experienced and that continues into an unknown period of time and to various degrees of restriction. It has led many of us to dream - to re-imagine what life will be like and how we want to restructure our lives going forward.

Where does Evergreen fit into that re-imagined horizon? What are we walking toward together as a Fellowship in the next 5-10 years of Evergreen's life? What do you see when you imagine yourself in that future Evergreen? The visions that folks have for Evergreen's future will be their dreams for what we can become, will inspire energy and action to achieve those dreams, and form the basis for the new Mission Statement to be developed as the roadmap to fulfilling our shared Vision.

Please add your voice to the vision of promise and possibility for Evergreen's future. Submit your Visions (feelings, thoughts, ideas, images, pictures as well as words, phrases, sentences) to the #visioning channel in our Slack workspace, or to the Planning Team.

THE MISSION PLANNING TEAM

Please contact any of us with questions or concerns. We welcome your input and your participation.

Ann Kelleher • Karen Winchell • Nancy Miller
Marijo Duprey • Sally Malan • Laurel Nisler

Please submit Visions by email to the Planning Team:

missionplanning@evergreenuu.org

VISIONING COVENANT

As we address the future direction of this congregation, we promise to:

- listen with our hearts,
- think with creativity and imagination,
- stay open to and respectful of new ideas and concepts,
- consider limitless possibilities, and
- honor the values and beliefs of the Fellowship;

and we are:

- ready to accept others without judgment, go to the extremes of diplomacy, and offer the maximum generosity,
- prepared to laugh at ourselves and laugh with each other, and
- eager to try, fail, learn, and try again.



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