

## NEWS FROM THE MISSION PLANNING TEAM

Over the past two months, we have continued on our journey of visioning the many avenues of possibility for Evergreen's future in the next 30 years. In Pastor Tom's article elsewhere in this Newsletter, you can review the genesis of this voyage as well as the steps we have taken to date and read more deeply about the course of the Mission and Vision process as we draw closer to putting all of the pieces together this Fall in finalizing a Vision and Mission for Evergreen.

Unlike some organizations where Visioning and Mission building is a top-down (CEO), Board directed, Committee driven, or select few organizational activity, we've tried to ensure widespread awareness, transparency, and participation. Every Member and Friend of the Fellowship has had the invitation and the opportunity to engage in the process at their own comfort and interest level at every key point in the process. Your participation has been, is, and will be critical to the long-term success of Evergreen.

Since January, Pr. Tom has provided us with a series of Worship Services and guided spiritual practices and experiences to assist us in arriving at consensus on a list of [Core Values](#) and [Bedrock Beliefs](#) in preparation for the current Visioning effort. Right in the middle of it all, we were confronted with the unprecedented pandemic that has rocked our world and tested our strength and our resilience. We have all been touched and challenged to be a larger and more generous community than before; to reach out beyond our comfort zones, to open our hearts with compassion and courage and meet strangers with a new outlook; to be witness to the loneliness, suffering and trauma of others with increased gentleness and presence. It has been an unexpected opportunity to exercise our newly renewed Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs to their fullest - and to wrap our arms around each other as well as to feel the warmth and comfort of the community that we share.

As we now prepare to emerge from this time of isolation, we do so with greater understanding of ourselves, our community, and our world. This greater

understanding of our strengths and our vulnerabilities is fertile ground on which to consider how we might re-imagine the future landscape of our lives and the future of Evergreen:

- What ideas, thoughts, images come to mind as you dream about walking through the doorway to Evergreen's future?
- How might we affirm and promote our denomination's [Principles](#)?
- How might we build on our Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs in our Visioning?
- What kind of future do you want to create for Evergreen?
- What legacy do you want to build for Evergreen together?
- What bridges might we be building that do not currently exist?

The **Vision** is the image, the picture, that we can see in our minds of the future we want to create together; our Mission will be the roadmap to accomplishing it. It is aspirational and reflects our Values and Beliefs. It motivates folks to work together because they all can see the Vision from their own vantage point and have ownership and commitment to it.

The **Mission** is the what, why, how, who of our organization. It is our purpose...why we exist. We will begin work on it in the Fall.

The Planning Team will continue to gather Visions submitted by the Congregation and Friends and publish them anonymously in the Weekly Update. At the end of the summer, these submissions will be compiled for discussion and synthesis at a series of **Focus Groups** before presentation to the Congregation. Please add your voice to the vision of possibility and promise for Evergreen's future.

### THE MISSION PLANNING TEAM

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

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Please submit Visions by email to the Planning Team:

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