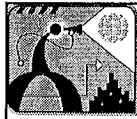


A Place to Belong

Hempfield BIC Church Sermon Notes 9-19-10



Mission Statement

To love and serve God, to love and serve each other, and to share Jesus in our region and beyond

Vision Statement

To become a Presence-driven, prayer saturated, relational church where people are loved, forgiven, healed, trained, and released to reach others

Focus Group – Dream Session

1. What part of the vision statement are you most passionate about.
2. What are the two or three greatest gifts God has given this church?
3. What are the two or three greatest opportunities God has given this church?
4. In one to three sentences, please write out what your God-given dream is for this church.



The Process



- All answers recorded.
- Strategic planning team (Quintin Frey: Facilitator) reviewed all results
- Looked for main themes or trends
- Found priorities (can't do everything at once)
- Looked for most urgent for this year (2010-2011)

Need Summary Grid

<u>Connect</u>	<u>Belong</u>	<u>Grow</u>	<u>Go</u>
<i>Front Porch</i>	<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>Living Room</i>	<i>Garage</i>
Entrance events	Friendships	Training	Reaching others
Children/youth	-----	-----	Children/youth
Women	-----	-----	Women
Men	-----	-----	Men
Seniors	-----	-----	Seniors
Families	-----	-----	Families



Outreach Opportunities

- Our community – 35% no church affiliation
- People are most receptive to personal invitation
- Most churches are traditional in style
- Many of those not attending church were raised in church and are looking for something fresh
- Receptivity is highest to recreational opportunity programs/events
- Single parent homes 17%

Our Strengths

- A relational church – friendly outreach minded
 - Small groups and classes
- A contemporary style service
 - Creative planning using the arts
- Beautiful facility/prime location
- A growing kids ministry
- A gymnasium for year round recreation
- Space on our property for outdoor activities
- Talented people gifted in planning events



Challenges

- Busy schedules
 - Many have both spouses working
 - School/sports activities
- Other interests
 - Weekends away
 - Hobbies, etc
- Some over committed -- some under
- Facility/budget costs
 - Often becomes a limiting factor or distraction



Key Emphasis - Belonging



- We are a friendly church - But we must move from friendly to friendships
- The priority for 2010-2011 is to help people find a place to belong
- Intentionally connecting with new people
- Intentionally connecting with one another
- Plan all our events around friendship building
- Pray that God puts others on our hearts.

The Dream - Specifics



1. In our worship service
 - a) Three Minute Rule
 - b) Zone Leaders
2. In our discipleship
 - a) Groups
 - b) Service
3. Intentional hospitality
 - a) Breathe a prayer, share a meal, make a friend
 - b) Personal invitations

The Dream -- Specifics



4. In our outreach = Intentional relationship building events
 - a) Upward
 - b) Dodgeball/Sports
 - c) BLAST
 - d) Bethlehem Walk
 - e) Car Show
 - f) Family Movie Nights

*Relational connection must be our priority
- Making friends for the kingdom...*

The Dream -- Specifics



5. In our prayer
 - a) Pray for friends and family
 - b) Pray for church attendees near you
 - c) Pray for new people
 - d) Pray for courage
 - e) Pray for time priorities
 - f) Pray for kingdom priorities

We Believe



- God called us to this place
- He provided our facility
- He commissioned us:
 - We are called to reach this community for Christ
- He will use us if we
 - Stay in tune with Him
 - Cooperate with His leading
 - Each do our part