COLONIAL PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Report on the 2019-22 CPUCC Strategic Plan

November 20, 2022

Strategic Plan Steering Committee Members: Liz August, Pastor Cindy August, Sharon Clark, Lawrence Porter, and Thaddeus Sampson (Chair)

Introduction

The 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for CPUCC was approved by the congregation on November 18, 2018. Due to Covid-19, the congregation extended the timeline through 2022 on November 21, 2021. The development of the Strategic Plan has been successfully completed. Its aim was to provide direction for CPUCC in achieving its Mission, Vision, and Core Values. The Strategic Plan has provided focus for the church, and its implementation will continue.

Highlighted Accomplishments of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan

I. Goal One: Advance a Christian and welcoming environment at CPUCC.

A. Assessed worship services and documented the process for future assessments.

B. Made significant improvements to facilities.

1. Repaired boiler.
2. Replaced carpeting in Sanctuary, new library, and new flooring in parsonage kitchen.
3. Moved library and Half-Day Play to new rooms and created new office space.
4. Renovated the children's nursery room.
5. Installed Wi-Fi on first floor.
6. Upgraded parking lot lighting.
7. Replaced windows in various areas of the building.
8. Made significant masonry repairs to outer areas of the building.
9. Repaired storm-water drain fields, rain gutters, and downspouts.
10. Updated children's playground by replacing mulch and sand, painting all equipment, building a baby swing, and installing an ADA swing.
11. Completed Labyrinth.
12. Researched plans for a Pavilion and received funds to help fund it.
13. Established several pollinator gardens on church grounds.
14. Increased accessibility in the single-use bathrooms.

C. Obtained official designation of CPUCC as an Open and Affirming Congregation.

D. Focused more on activities to help increase our understanding of diversity and make CPUCC even more welcoming.

1. Provided Sunday School instruction on racism and the refugee crisis.

2. Participated in Gay Pride and established an annual Pride worship service.

3. Participated in YWCA 21-Day Racial Equality and Social Justice Challenge.

4. Established book club focusing on diversity: meaning, issues, and solutions.

E. Implemented a Green Church Action Plan, developed a Creation Justice Covenant, and obtained designation of CPUCC as a Creation Justice Church.

F. Took steps to enhance safety of persons at the church.

1. Provided active shooter training.

2. Installed security cameras.

3. Repaired door locks.

4. Re-supplied first aid kits and installed defibrillators.

II. Goal Two: Strengthen church sustainability for staff salaries, staff needs, facilities maintenance and innovation, and groundskeeping.

A. Hired a consultant to develop a marketing plan, redesign the church website, and manage our social media presence. Implementation is currently underway with completion scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

B. Determined the staffing needs of the church and hired an office assistant.

C. Initiated a Capital Campaign in 2021, resulting in over $482,000 in pledges over three years.

D. Formed a grants committee to identify and apply for grant opportunities.

a. Received $3000 in grant funds for audio-visual equipment.

b. Received $1000 in grant funds to update the seating in Philips Chapel.

E. Completed a memorial gift list and developed memorial gift envelopes that are available in the Narthex

F. Designed and sold memorial bricks to replenish the Memorial Garden Fund.

III. Goal Three: Develop enhanced internal and external communication.

A. Established a Welcome Center with current information about the church and staffed by a volunteer each Sunday.

B. Selected new electronic signage to replace current sign. The new sign will be installed soon. Improved signage within the church.

C. Installed new audio-visual equipment to improve internal worship services and functions.

1. Provided online church services.

2. Conducted some meetings and church programs via Zoom.

IV. Goal Four: Deepen our understanding of faith and spreading the Good News in an intentional way.

A. Established Messy Church.

B. Encouraged groups and Sunday School classes to include prayer when meeting.

C. Established new and larger library space that is more accessible. Cataloguing and grouping of books is 40% complete.

D. Developed online resources for prayer training, initiated an online prayer group, and created an online prayer request form.

E. Conducted healing services which are scheduled on a regular basis at different services.

F. Initiated educational programs that deal with social justice issues.

G. Documented all adult Sunday School materials that CPUCC owns and placed them in a separate area of the new library.

H. Created a list of websites where Sunday School resource materials can be found.

I. Started a group of faith development leaders who meet quarterly to plan educational opportunities and brainstorm ideas.

J. Added Spiritual Springboards and Bible Study to the educational opportunities for adults.

Conclusion

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee will continue to monitor the work on the Goals of the Strategic Plan, make periodic reports to Council, and provide recommendations for moving forward. The Strategic Plan has provided direction for our church in service to God that benefits ourselves, congregants, and the community-at-large. The work continues. "No one changed the world by staying put. Keep climbing."