



## Faith Methodist Church Strategic Plan

April 1, 2024

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## **1. Executive Summary**

Effective April 1, 2024, Faith Methodist Church embarks upon a transformative ten-year journey outlined in our strategic plan. In the heart of our faith community, we stand at a pivotal moment, ready to embark on a journey of spiritual development, service, and church growth. As we unfold the pages of the strategic plan for Faith Methodist Church, we do so with a collective vision of becoming a radiant beacon of light that extends beyond the confines of our steeple to touch lives in our local neighborhoods and resonate across our community.

Grounded in our unwavering commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ, this strategic plan charts a course that intertwines spiritual growth, community engagement, and a steadfast dedication to making a positive difference in the lives in which we serve. Together, as one body, we set forth on this path of intentional and purposeful living, guided by the shadow of our steeple, with a vision that transcends boundaries and illuminates the path towards an exciting future.

## **2. Opening Statement**

In 2022, Faith Methodist Church overwhelmingly voted to join the newly formed Global Methodist Church. The mission of this new denomination is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. Through a reliance on Scripture and the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church seeks to rekindle the revival spirit of John Wesley's original Methodist movement. Faith Methodist Church has aligned itself with the rich tradition of Wesleyan Theology and seeks to share the grace of Jesus Christ with all people in our community.

## **3. Faith Methodist Church Vision Statement**

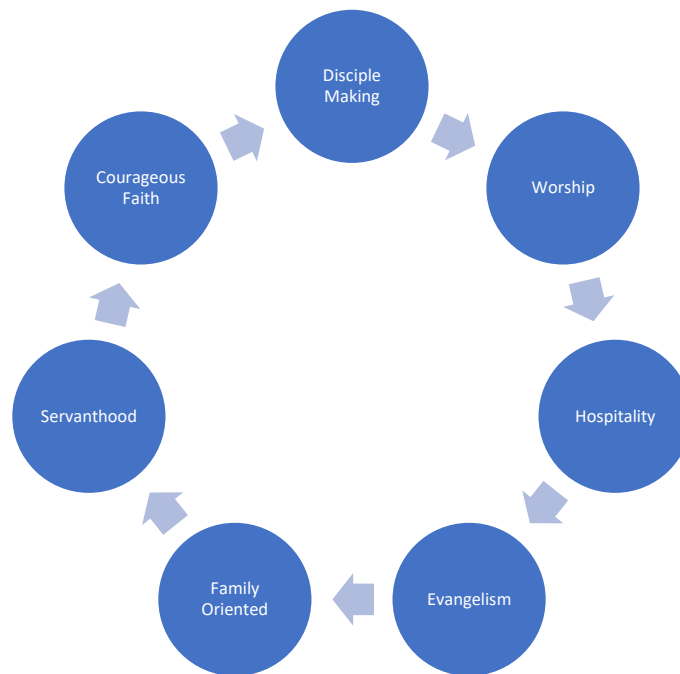
To be known as a church with authentic love for God and others, we at Faith Methodist Church envision a community where discipleship thrives, relationships flourish, spiritual growth is nurtured, families are strengthened, neighbors are served, and grace binds us together.

## **4. Faith Methodist Mission Statement**

Connecting people with the grace of Jesus

## 5. Faith Methodist Church Core Values

At the heart of Faith Methodist Church are core values that are the guiding principles that shape our collective identity and mission. They inspire us to deepen our faith through worship, grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through learning and spiritual development, and actively serve others with love and compassion. Through steadfast reliance on God, we boldly step out in faith in obedience and action. Our commitment to hospitality ensures that everyone feels welcomed, while our focus on families nurtures strong bonds and support networks. Through evangelism, we share the transformative message of God's love for others, inviting them to join us on this journey of faith. These core values not only define who we are but also guide our actions as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.



### ***Disciple Making***

- We are dedicated to the pursuit of mentoring and teaching that equips children, youth, and adults to become more like Christ through God's Word.

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, even to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20*

### **Worship**

- We respond to God's grace and mercy and gather together in the Spirit to express to Jesus our adoration and awe with excellence and passion.

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24*

### **Hospitality**

- We create spaces where people can gather together, worship, learn and connect.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

### **Evangelism**

- We believe our calling is to share the gospel and grace of Jesus with others through our words and actions.

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15*

### **Family Oriented**

- We prioritize and encourage the spiritual growth, support, and involvement of families.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:5-9*

### **Servanthood**

- We want to hear the cry of the needy and be the hands and feet of Christ.

*What good is it, my brothers, and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:14-17.*

### ***Courageous Faith***

- We encourage bold and innovative endeavors, and we inspire our members to step out in faith.

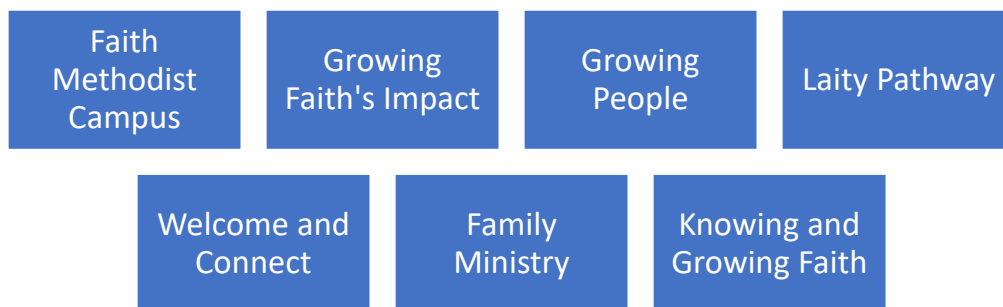
*Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 2 Corinthians 3:12*

## **6. Strategic Areas of Focus: Foundations of Purposeful Progress**

Within the framework of our Strategic Plan, we have identified and embraced seven “Strategic Areas of Focus” that serve as the sturdy foundations upon which our collective aspirations will stand tall. These are not just guiding principles; they are the bedrock of our intentional journey towards spiritual growth, community engagement, and a steadfast dedication to making a positive difference in the lives in which we serve.

As we delve into each strategic area of focus—each a testament to our commitment to faith, service, and unity—we find ourselves equipped with the tools necessary to build a future where the shadow of our steeple stretches far and wide, and the light we emanate becomes a powerful force for positive transformation. Let these strategic areas of focus be the compass directing our efforts, the steadfast supports lifting our vision, and the embodiment of our shared commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ.

The ***Seven Strategic Areas of Focus*** are the building blocks upon which the vision will be set into motion.



### ⇒ **Faith Methodist Campus:**

We’re dedicated to optimizing our facilities to ensure we effectively serve our congregation and community. By strategically planning for both present demands and future growth, we aim to create a welcoming and functional environment that empowers individuals to connect, grow and serve together effectively.

⇒ **Growing Faith's Impact:**

Through Faith's Missions and Outreach programs, we embody and share our beliefs and values while actively engaging with and serving the wider community. These endeavors are not only expressions of our faith but also opportunities to extend God's love and compassion to all. By actively participating in Faith's Mission and Outreach programs, we strive to be vessels of God's love and compassion, making a tangible difference in the lives we encounter. These initiatives not only reflect our commitment to living out the teachings of Jesus Christ, but also provide avenues for building meaningful connections and fostering positive change within our wider community.

⇒ **Growing People:**

Nurturing and growing people in their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ is at the core of our mission. We endeavor to cultivate individuals' faith through engaging studies, small groups, mentorship programs, prayer partners, personal discipleship plans and service opportunities, guiding them toward a deeper understanding of their beliefs and stronger commitment to Jesus Christ.

⇒ **Laity Pathway:**

Recognizing the valuable contributions, skills, and talents our lay members possess, we empower and seek to partner with them to take on responsibilities within the Faith Methodist Church community. By fostering a culture of collaboration and partnership, we believe that leveraging the diverse gifts and passions of our lay members enriches the collective experience and strengthens the fabric of our Faith Methodist Church community. We seek to empower individuals to make meaningful contributions to the life of our church. Together, we believe that by leveraging the collective wisdom, talents, and passions of our members, we can further strengthen Faith Methodist Church and advance God's kingdom in our midst.

⇒ **Welcome and Connect:**

Creating an environment where newcomers and existing members alike feel warmly welcomed, and valued, and where efforts are made to help them connect with others in our Faith Methodist Church community. We strive to foster genuine relationships and meaningful connections, recognizing that these bonds are essential for individuals to feel supported, encouraged, and spiritually nourished on their faith journey.

## ⇒ **Family Ministry**

At Faith Methodist Church, we are deeply committed to nurturing and supporting families through our vibrant family ministry, with a special emphasis on children and youth. We want to strengthen fathers, mothers, and grandparents. We believe that investing in the spiritual growth and development of young people is essential for building a strong foundation of faith within our community. Through engaging Sunday school classes, dynamic youth groups and enriching fellowship opportunities, we provide a safe and welcoming environment where children and youth can explore their faith, ask questions, and form lasting friendships. We are passionate about equipping young people to live out their faith boldly in today's world, empowering them to become the next generation of disciples.

## ⇒ **Knowing and Growing Faith**

Providing a pathway to continually reach and inform others of who Faith Methodist Church is, how we are working toward the Great Commission, and the various ways we invite and welcome all to join us in growing in faith and doing Christ's work. Leveraging the power of social media, marketing campaigns and community outreach events, we strive to amplify our message and extend the reach of Faith Methodist Church. Through engaging content and targeted communication strategies, we seek to authentically portray our mission and values, inviting individuals to join us in our collective pursuit of faith, discipleship, and fulfilling Christ's work in the world.

## **7. Strategic Goals**

In the strategic goal setting process for Faith Methodist Church, we've chosen 18-month cycles to blend long-term vision and adaptability to evolving circumstances. By extending the timeframe beyond the typical year, we allow for more comprehensive planning and implementation. Within each cycle, we'll narrow our focus to (5) strategic goals, ensuring clarity, prioritization, and efficient resource allocation. This approach enables us to maintain a sharp strategic focus while remaining agile enough to respond to our congregation and emerging ministry opportunities effectively.

*Strategic goals are outlined in detail in the Appendix section of the strategic plan.*

## **8. Conclusion: A Journey of Faithful Impact**

In concluding our strategic planning for Faith Methodist Church, we find ourselves standing on the threshold of an exciting future—one shaped by the shadow of our steeple, the



brilliance of our shared faith, and the warmth of our community bonds. As we embrace the vision outlined within these strategic pages, we do so with the knowledge that our journey is a roadmap to spiritual growth, community engagement and a steadfast dedication to making a positive difference in the lives in which we serve.

The pages of this plan represent more than just aspirations; they symbolize the collective heartbeat of our congregation, pulsating with the desire to be a beacon of light in a world yearning for hope. The initiatives we embark upon are not solitary endeavors, but threads woven into the fabric of a greater narrative—one of love, service, and transformative grace.

May the shadow of our steeple continue to provide solace to those seeking refuge and may the light we radiate be a source of inspiration to our community. As we step forward into this future, let our actions echo the teachings we hold dear, creating ripples of positive change that extend far beyond our walls.

This is an exciting time at Faith Methodist Church. In unity, purpose, and faith, we march onward committed to living out our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, embodying the values we hold dear, and making a lasting impact on the community we are privileged to serve. Will you join us?

## **9. Faith Methodist Church Strategic Planning Team**

Denee Hawthorne  
Gail Armatys  
Sean Laffere  
Aimee Dorn  
Mark Standlee  
Keely Knippling  
John Harrity  
Kyle Neely  
Ramona Riggs  
David Dorn

On behalf of the Faith Methodist Church Strategic Planning team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the strategic planning process. Serving on the strategic planning team has been a tremendous honor and blessing. Together, we have embarked on a journey of discernment, prayer, collaboration, and visioning, striving to align our goals with God's purpose for Faith Methodist Church. As we move forward, may our collective efforts bear abundant fruit and bring glory to His name.

***~Denee Hawthorne***

## APPENDIX

### Faith Methodist Church Strategic Goals

Effective date: April 2024 - September 2025 (18 months)

- ⇒ Strategic Area of Focus: ***Growing People***
  - **Goal:** Develop Discipleship Pathway for children, youth, and adults
    - Incorporate Spiritual gifts survey
    - Strategic team Ambassador: Gail Armatys
    - Staff Partner: Linda O'Donnell
  
- ⇒ Strategic Area of Focus: ***Welcome and Connect***
  - **Goal:** Establish a group of laity volunteer Ambassadors to oversee the Visitor and New Member programs
    - Highlight the various ways in which visitors and new members can plug into the life of the church, engage in Sunday school classes, small groups, volunteer opportunities, etc.
    - Strategic team Ambassador: Keely Knippling
    - Staff partner: Cindy Wenz
  
- ⇒ Strategic Area of Focus: ***Laity Pathway***
  - **Goal:** Develop strategy to grow Lay Leaders in the church
    - Create database within Shelby to understand current/future lay leaders
    - Strategic team Ambassador: John Harity
    - Staff Partner: Ramona Riggs
  
- ⇒ Strategic Area of Focus: ***Faith Methodist Campus***
  - **Goal:** Increase Sunday morning attendance to 600 people
    - Establish a team to review various options that lead to long term sustainable growth
    - Strategic team Ambassador: Sean Laffere
    - Pastor Partner: David Dorn
  
  - **Goal:** Establish a team to review the immediate needs to make small modifications around the church to accommodate children and youth on Wednesday nights.
    - Trustees Ambassador: Walter Fondren
    - Pastor Partner: David Dorn

We look ahead with anticipation to the journey that lies before us. At the 15-month mark, we will reconvene as a team to assess our progress toward achieving our current goals, celebrating our successes, and reflecting on areas where growth is needed. This evaluation will serve as a pivotal moment for Faith Methodist Church, guiding us as we discern new objectives for the next 18-month cycle.

With faith as our compass and unity as our strength, we embrace the opportunities that await us, confident in our ability to continue advancing God's kingdom in our midst.