

Ongoing and Changing Missional Priorities in our Church

There are so many theological and spiritual values that are developed in scripture that there is no way that each church can do it all. Therefore, depending on the setting, changing needs of the community, and changing gifts that live in the life of each church, Missional Priorities sometimes change as well.

I would like to invite all those interested to the first of several informal preparatory **discussions about the Missional Priorities of our church.** This important meeting will be held on **August 7th at the church from 9 am-noon.** YES! -- there will be coffee and doughnuts, etc. This discussion will include a dialogue of our journey from our shared values, to the ways we have and are currently living out those values. We will then dialogue how we could make plans for how we will more fully live out our values for our church. We will also be discussing/and taking notes on what is discussed at other opportunities, like the backyard fireside informal gatherings at my home on Wednesday evenings during the month of August at my home at 7:00 pm. Each week we will publish the dates/times/places of these informal discussions.

After our discussion, we will take what we learn to a more formal meeting with District Superintendent Heecheon Jeon, on September 9th at 6:00-8:00 pm with those on the Staff Pastor Relations Committee and the Administrative Council.

Thank you for your willingness to take the time to lift up the best stewardship of our faith, gifts, and resources in our ministry together at Van Meter UMC.

These are some guiding questions for our discussions:

Mission: What is our purpose or goal?

Vision: Where is God leading us?

Values: What is too important to compromise?

Context: Where are we now....really?

Strategies: How will we get there? What are 3-5 Missional priorities that the church will implement to fulfill the mission of the church in the next 3-5 years?

Rev. Beth