

# FUMC Strategic Plan Overview

Our strategic plan framework is based on the book, *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Bishop Robert Schnase. The book describes practices that shape and sustain congregations. Vibrant, growing, fruitful congregations repeat and deepen certain fundamental activities, seeking to perform them with excellence:

## **Radical Hospitality**

*Offer the invitation and welcome of Christ*

Radical hospitality is not merely focused on getting people to come to church. Rather, it focuses with greater intentionality about how we carry hospitality with us into our neighborhoods, work life, and affinity networks.

Offering the invitation and welcome of Christ will help us become the kind of church people long for: warm, relational, and inviting to all.

## **Passionate Worship**

*Provide worship that connects us to God and to one another*

Passionate worship extends beyond improving what happens on Sunday morning in the sanctuary. Worship can happen in many places throughout the week, privately and corporately.

Congregations who practice Passionate Worship offer the utmost and highest to the glory of God; they make worship a priority.

## **Intentional Faith Development**

*Offer opportunities for people to grow in Christ by learning in community*

Our Wesleyan heritage trains us for lifelong discipleship and faith development. Intentional faith development includes more focus on experiential learning, mentoring, spiritual formation, and forming relationships in addition to traditional content-based education in Bible studies and Sunday school classes.

We will offer opportunities for people to learn in community at all stages of their faith journey. We hold deeply to a pattern of small groups for accountable discipleship where students become leaders.

## **Risk-taking Mission and Service**

*Offer relational ministries that make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ*

The first call of each Christian is to love God, love neighbor, and strives to shift from doing ministry *for* to doing ministry *with* people.

Following the example of Christ, our service to the world should center on sharing the Good News of God's revealed Kingdom, and healing all manner of illnesses including mental, spiritual, physical and emotional distress. We will offer endless opportunities for people to make a difference in lives of others through mission, service outreach and witness mission initiatives.

## **Extravagant Generosity**

*Teach people to give of themselves.*

Extravagant generosity involves helping people learn to love generosity as a way of.

Faith comes with an invitation to share what we have with those around us. The gifts of personal finance, time, talents, and our physical building are resources for ministry in the world. Christians are called to be faithful stewards of ALL their resources.

**The fruitful, God-related life develops with intentional and repeated attention to these five essential practices that are critical for our growth in Christ. These areas of focus will help us fulfill the mission of the church.**

# STRATEGIC PLAN-AT-A-GLANCE

## 1. Radical Hospitality – At JFUMC we will:

- 1.1. Increase the ways in which people in the Jackson community hear about JFUMC.
- 1.2. Establish a FIT (First Impression Team) team to develop a plan for welcoming, identifying and following up with visitors who attend worship, and/or other programs including bible studies, small groups and other ministries of the church by July 2022.
- 1.3. Provide training for laity and clergy to enhance hospitality.
- 1.4. Emphasize ministries that support the spiritual and emotional needs of visitors and new members while seeking new ways and services to minister to their needs while considering current members and constituents.

## 2. Passionate Worship – At JFUMC we will:

- 2.1 Deepen the worship life of JFUMC in the traditional worship service.
- 2.2 Begin an additional non-traditional worship service.

## 3. Intentional Faith Development – At JFUMC we will:

- 3.1 Develop a clear path to faith development for people of all ages and spiritual stages, creating a vibrant community of learners.
- 3.2 Encourage all Sunday school classes, study groups and small groups to actively recruit members.
- 3.3 Grow children's and youth ministry to 50 children participating weekly in some aspect of children's ministry by 2025.
- 3.4 Incorporate young adult and family ministry in the overall formation plan that supports families, encourages families to serve together, and have healthy relationships.

## 4. Risk-taking Mission and Service – At JFUMC we will:

- 4.1 Develop broad participation and sustained engagement opportunities in support of relational outreach ministries.
- 4.2 Develop Volunteer program that includes training in faith sharing and on making disciples of Christ through ministry.

## 5. Extravagant Generosity – At JFUMC we will:

- 5.1 Teach, preach, and practice the tithe and proportional giving.
- 5.2 Offer high-quality, multi-week, lay and clergy-led, theologically sound opportunities for members to pledge and to step up in their giving (time and talent as well financial resources) to support the church.
- 5.3 Create high-trust, transparency, accurate and audited financial and financial reporting systems for the congregation.
- 5.4 Evaluate the current JFUMC facilities and address future needs