

Update from the Strategic Visioning Lead Team

*"... the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart so that you can do it."
Deut 30:14*

Building on the foundation of our March retreat, the WPC Strategic Visioning Lead Team continues to explore God's path for us. We have been supported in this journey by Bill Wilson from the Center for Healthy Churches (CHC), who is helping us to both understand and look beyond our preconceptions and beliefs and to consider how best to approach and structure the work ahead. Our meetings together have combined team building and fellowship with challenging questions and active listening.

At the outset, Bill expressed admiration for Leah and Westminster leadership committing to this process now, when so many things at WPC are going well. Often, Bill observed, CHC is called in by churches in existential crisis. In CHC's experience, churches who revisit, reconsider, and revise their strategic vision as a regular activity are better equipped to anticipate and respond to changing conditions.

To ground our efforts, we've looked back to review the good work of the 2018 vision team, and also considered the many and unforeseen ways in which WPC and the world around us have radically changed since that vision. When we went through the exercise of naming those changes, it was clear we stand at a singular moment in WPC's history requiring a considered and courageous response that draws on the best from all of us.

Referencing CHC experience, the team will structure our work in four phases:

1. **Data Gathering:** This work is in progress with the goal to objectively understand our membership, our operations, and the community (local, global, and virtual) in which we operate
2. **Listening:** Hearing and gathering our daily reality and our hopes and dreams for the future. We are engaged now in learning the questions needed for this activity, which will take place during the summer
3. **Discerning:** Listening for God's voice in the data to show us the paths we need to follow. We expect this focused activity will include another retreat in the fall
4. **Planning and Dreaming:** Guided by the experiences of other congregations and the many resources available in our congregation reflect God's voice in a concrete and collaborative plan of action by year end.

Our next update will include more details on activities in the listening phase. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers and encourage you to prepare by reflecting on the role of WPC and God's church in your life.

The WPC Strategic Visioning Lead Team are: Co-Chairs; Steve Brown and Mary Maina, Emily Bowman, Chris Carpenter; Katie Cloutman, Rob Necarsulmer; Leslie Robertshaw; Tom Russell; Ruth Simonson; Mark Stanisz. Jane Wendel, and Pastor Leah Hrachovec.