

## The Vision and Goals for the United Church of Los Alamos

(Endorsed by the Congregation on September 21, 2003)

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) and the Executive Board have reviewed and updated the vision and goals for the United Church. Being always mindful of the United Church Covenant, this vision of our future preserves our foundational strengths and makes clear we are flexible and dynamic in responding to change. The following vision and goals address new opportunities, and summarize and articulate who we are and what we believe God is calling us to be in the next four to five years.

**Belonging:** We will serve Christ by actively inviting and including each other into our family of faith by caring for each other, treasuring each individual, and bonding as a family through affirmation of the United Church Covenant. We hope to achieve this vision by:

- **Extending opportunities for caring fellowship:** Building upon our caring fellowship we will continue to create, change, revisit or explore opportunities for ministry (including intergenerational), remaining considerate to the needs of the isolated, needy, or specialized groups.
- **Caring fellowship for youth:** We will provide a caring fellowship for young people in ways that excite and challenge their Christian growth and provide a sense of belonging and importance in our church and community.

**Worship:** As a worshipping community and in support of our ecumenical nature, we embrace a rich variety of worship experiences. We hope to expand this vision by:

- **Exhibiting versatility, diversity, and openness toward worship experiences:** We will explore additional worship opportunities, being ever mindful of our traditional worship approaches.
- **Encouraging staff leadership:** We will encourage our staff to help support new suggestions and needs of fellowship, worship, outreach, and spiritual and personal growth from the membership. We will continue to encourage a democratic, team oriented approach toward spiritual and church leadership.

**Spiritual and personal growth:** We understand that the use of time and resources reflect our values. We will honor the uniqueness and gifts of each member. We will strive to provide opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. We hope to achieve this vision by:

- **Enriching ecumenical experiences:** We will continue these efforts by supporting attendance to various denominational activities, and providing opportunities to share these experiences with the congregation. We will invite denominational representatives to visit and participate in church activities.
- **Expanding spiritual growth and education:** Recognizing all age groups and living situations, we will continue to offer, explore, and develop programs of spiritual education, guest speakers and discussions of social issues to better serve the needs of our membership.
- **Finding the passion of members:** Recognizing the need for volunteers in the life of the church and the other demands upon our memberships' time and energy, we will explore methods to identify individual members' passion(s) in order to enhance the meaningfulness of volunteer work within the church and church programs.

**Planning and evaluation:** We will be good stewards of all of our resources through continual and careful evaluation of our personnel, programs and organizational structures. We hope to achieve this vision by:

- **Providing leadership, consistency, curriculum and continuity:** We will use the pastoral leadership to guide the lay leadership in the selection of dynamic, challenging, and exciting curricula for all ages.
- **Instituting program evaluation:** We will encourage the executive board, church boards, and staff to regularly evaluate programs, policy, procedures and by-laws in light of the current goals, mission and vision of the church.
- **Exploring issues with our lands, structures and infrastructures:** Being cognizant of community demographics, and the aging of our facilities, we will consider possible upgrades, changes and improvements to the land and facilities.

**Outreach:** Being consistent with our 55 years of mission involvement, we will continue to serve our larger community. We hope to achieve this vision by:

- **Continuing mission outreach:** We will continue our significant financial mission support to a multitude of organizations, continue the annual Mexico mission trip and explore and develop additional mission activities based on the needs of our neighbors.
- **Recognizing and encouraging church members' participation in the community:** Recognizing the United Church's contributions in finances and personnel to community groups and mission activities, we will raise the awareness regarding these activities and encourage participation.
- **Providing the focus and leadership for ecumenical activities within the community:** We will continue to take leadership in such activities as Easter sunrise service and the Thanksgiving service, and will explore additional opportunities for ecumenical religious activities for both adult and youth participation.
- **Providing outside speakers:** We will bring to Los Alamos and the northern New Mexico community outstanding speakers that address the spiritual and social needs and issues of individuals, and of the local, national and international communities.

**Growth:** We will invite people into and nurture them in a life of faith. We hope to achieve this vision by:

- **Attracting adults and youth:** We will actively look for people of all ages searching for a church with the ideals as expressed in the covenant, and for exciting adult and youth programs.
- **Strengthening new member programs:** We will develop a stronger program for welcoming, accepting and supporting new members.
- **Expanding our membership:** We will grow as we move into the future.