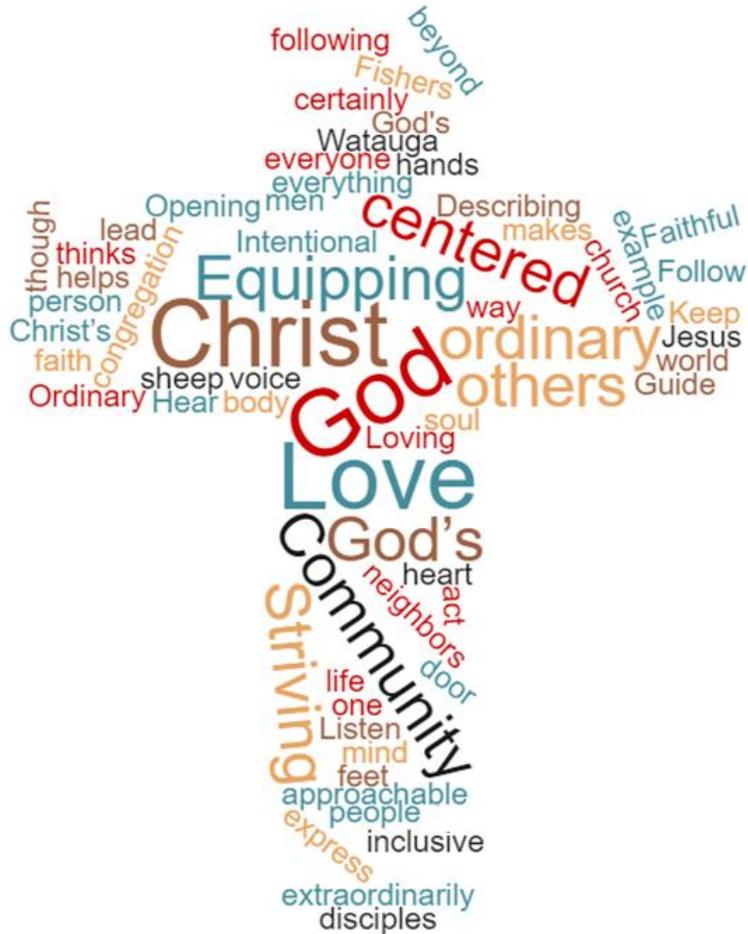


**First Presbyterian Church
Boone, North Carolina**

*A family of faith called to **grow** in the love of Christ, **share** that Good News,
and **serve** the world.*

Full Report from the Vision 2020 Coordinating Team

September 2019



Grow, Share, Serve

Dear FPC Family,

It's true that the Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. Together we affirm that all of who we are, all of what we do, and all of what we seek to do, builds upon the foundation that has been laid in Christ Jesus for us. With this, we give thanks to the faithful who blazed the trail of discipleship and lived into the vision God set before them to establish First Presbyterian Church of Boone, NC some 80 years ago. We are the beneficiaries of their vision, and of their faithfulness in carrying out God's work in ministry, education, worship, mission, and evangelism. Deuteronomy 6:10-12 assures the Israelites that God will bring them into the land that he swore to their fathers and that they will enjoy cities and houses they did not build, wells that they did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves they did not plant. And Moses warns them not to forget the Lord, who brought them out of slavery in Egypt and blessed them with such things.

As we venture into a new vision for FPC, it is fitting for us to remember this too! God has provided us with a church (*people*) that we did not build alone, and he has blessed us with many resources (*a building with 12 acres of property that is fully funded, a large budget to carry out the mission of the church, and an endowment fund to provide ministry for years to come*) to carry out the ongoing Kingdom work in his name. Together we build upon that which was already built, that which was established and built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Many of you have contributed to this vital work of praying, discerning, and dreaming who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. This document attests to a collective vision that God has placed upon our hearts to continue to move the church forward for years to come.

While there are many tasks for us to do; they are not simply tasks to be done in order to check a box; they fit within the framework of our new collective mission that we are called to grow, share, and serve in Christ's name. Over the next five years, these visions are our collective priorities to work toward together to make our dream a reality. In doing so, we continue the important work of the Church; living into our calling as disciples of Jesus to grow inwardly and to allow that growth to lead us toward an outward focus of sharing his good news and serving others to God's glory. Our foundation remains intact and together we build upon the work that's been laid before us, all the while continuing to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. I'm blessed and excited to be a part of this work with all of you, and look forward to the ways in which God will use these visions to advance his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven! Thank you for being an integral part of it, and thanks be to God for leading us by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Vision 2020 Coordinating Team

Jeff Smith
Garner Dewey
Kelvin Gryder
Heather Langdon
Todd Liljestrang
Katherine Logan
John Newell
Gay Lynn Williams
Dean Gropper (2018)

Vision 2020 Discussion Small Group Leaders:

Cindy Barr
Gina Coffey
Herb Hash
Heather Langdon
Anna Lehman
Kathy McKethan Lehman
Liz Michael
Sue Newell
Rob Robertson
Angela Smith
Bob Smith
Whitney Wallace
Wes Weaver
Cathy Ziegler
(Approximately 115 group participants)

Report from the Vision 2020 Coordinating Team

This report is submitted to First Presbyterian Church of Boone, NC by the Vision 2020 Coordinating Team after more than one year of prayer, scripture study, discussion with and among members, and our Deacons and Elders, and many meetings. The Coordinating Team believes we have been faithful in our work to develop a plan that moves us in the direction that God is leading us.

It is the sincere hope of the Vision 2020 Coordinating Team that all current and future members of First Presbyterian Church, Boone, NC, will see opportunities for themselves to grow, share, and serve through this plan for our future through the year 2025.

Looking Back

Subsequent pages of this report include a detailed outline the timeline of the Vision 2020 process. However, it is helpful to look back to remind us of how we got to that outline. This process began with the call by Pastor Jeff Smith for a team of people to nominate members to lead small discussion groups to be held during late summer and through the fall of 2018. At the same time, a group who would serve as the coordinating team was asked to serve as an oversight group for the process.

Jeff Smith met with the coordinating team in summer 2018 to outline the process and overall vision, with a completion date sometime in fall 2019. However, many details would be determined by the direction we felt led throughout the process. Thus, the process was not completely planned and prescribed. We chose to let the Spirit guide us in many instances.

Later in the summer of 2018, small discussion group leaders were charged to lead weekly discussions focused on specific areas and programs of the church. These discussions were to be guided by scripture that was read each day of the week, and then prayed over and discussed with specific questions for the groups.

In August 2018 there was a Saturday gathering of all small discussion group leaders and participants. This day began with a gathering of everyone together in the sanctuary and a short worship service. Then the groups split up and met in classrooms to begin their work to move the Vision 2020 process forward.

Groups met faithfully each week to discuss each topic as laid out in the Vision 2020 discussion booklet. A recorder in each group took notes and listed top five priorities out of each week's discussion. These notes were sent to a person on the coordinating team who compiled all results.

In November 2018, the small groups completed the first round of discussions and the coordinating team met to discuss how to work with the initial set of results. The team broke into pairs who organized the notes into priorities for each topic and then met again in early 2019. It was decided to send the large list of over 90 priorities back to the small groups to organize from top priority to lowest by topic. This was difficult as each priority was a priority by some group. However, the groups met and submitted their new lists.

After the updated lists were submitted, the coordinating team determined as a part of the visioning process that the mission statement needed to be examined in light of the priorities that

had been submitted by the discussion groups. The Deacons and Elders were charged with discussing “Who is God calling us to be as a church?” in order to facilitate this work. Words and phrases from the Deacon and Elder discussion were submitted to the coordinating team, and that is what led to the word picture on the first page of this report. The coordinating team discussed all of this as well as scripture that would serve as a foundation for our new mission statement. After covering all of this, and more than one intense meeting and discussion, the coordinating team wrote an updated mission: *A family of faith called to **grow** in the love of Christ, **share** that Good News, and **serve** the world.*

The Session approved the new mission statement in their July 2019 meeting.

In spring 2019, the coordinating team read over the item lists that were submitted by the small discussion groups and determined that the church leadership could be helpful in helping to put structure around the priorities that rose to the top. Therefore, elders were charged with taking the priority list to their committees in May and June to determine which priorities could be managed by either their committee or other suggested committees. The committees were also asked to name resources that would be needed to fulfill those priorities.

After having a draft mission statement, the coordinating team was able to review the final priority lists submitted by the committees through that lens. What we do as a church should help us to grow, share and/or serve. Having this context as well as guidance regarding resources helped the coordinating team put the priorities into place very nicely. This led to the priorities timeline also included in this report.

Vision for the Future

Guided by our mission to be a family of faith called to grow in the love of Christ, share that good news, and serve the world, here are our priorities for the years 2020-2025 for First Presbyterian Church, Boone, NC. The coordinating team and leadership understands that there were many wonderful ideas submitted by the discussion groups, and there will be worthy needs and ideas that will likely come up during these years that will be worked into the life and work of the church. However, the following list consists of ideas that were brought up by many if not all of the discussion groups, over and over, which were guided by scripture, prayer, and the passion of our participants:

This list is not in priority order, but these have been put into a timeline, with considerations for the time to implement, as well as resources that would be needed for some of the items. See page 11 of this report to view the timeline for these items:

- A. Further participation of all ages in worship services.
- B. Communication: Better communicate congregational needs
- C. Utilize the church building for more events and activities.
- D. Institute Bible study and fellowship groups (meet in homes, share dinners, etc.)
- E. Deacon outreach – improved outreach and better understanding about how this works
- F. Establish and continue care groups
- G. Stress that Stewardship is year-round and includes time and talent
- H. Increase combined services
- I. Formalize a children’s/Youth music ministry
- J. Full time director of children’s ministry
- K. Evangelism activities: Concerted effort to reach more people for Christ

- L. Build a picnic shelter
- M. Incorporate changes in worship format (less scripted, consider reversing worship times, use various creeds accepted by PCUSA, etc.)
- N. Better communicate opportunities for service/ mission
- O. Schedule intergenerational group activities (movie night, game night, tailgate, mission opportunities, retreats, etc.)
- P. More and better technology. Includes sound for the multipurpose room, better projectors, more robust WiFi, grow the Tech crew
- Q. Improve broad communication. More information on committee, mission, and session actions, minute for missions. During services, in gathering space, on church app and social media. Information on Salem presbytery and PCUSA happenings.

After the presentation and this report has been shared with the church by the coordinating team on Sunday, September 29, 2019, the work will begin with a “committee night” scheduled for November 2019 in order that committees can begin working toward the realization of the vision that has been put forward for First Presbyterian Church, Boone, NC.

Praise be to God!

Grow - Share - Serve

Vision 2020 Report Attachment 1: Vision 2020 Process Foundational and Guiding Scripture (Verse lists with excerpts)

While there were verses read every day during the Vision 2020 discussion group timeframe, the following were the key scriptures discussed by each group and served as guides for topics each week.

Fall 2018 Weekly Discussion Groups: Guiding Scripture

Week 1: I Corinthians 12:12-27

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Week 2: John 4:20-24

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.

Week 3: Jeremiah 18:1-6

Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

Week 4: Matthew 25:37-40

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Week 5: Acts 2:42-47

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Week 6: Matthew 9:35-38

'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers into his harvest field.

Week 7: Luke 12:32-34

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Week 8: Isaiah 43:18-21

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? ... I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Mission Statement: Guiding scripture

Called

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Grow

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Ephesians 4:11-15

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Share

Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all 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, to the very end of the age."

Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Serve

Matthew 25:34-40

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was

hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Vision 2020 Report Attachment 2: Vision 2020 Timeline

Vision 2020 Process - Complete Timeline

Summer 2018

1. Officers nominate Recruiting Team and Coordinating Team
2. Small Group Leaders asked to facilitate
3. Training for Small Group Leaders, with booklet to guide

August-October 2018

4. Vision 2020 Discussion Small Groups meet weekly; 115 folks in 14 groups. Reporters gather information and submit to Heather Langdon on Coordinating Team

November 2018

5. Coordinating Team meets, receives data, pairs up to distill category responses

January-February 2019

6. Discussion Small Groups meet again to review and prioritize responses

April 2019

7. Coordinating Team receives prioritization data, indicating broad consensus
8. Coordinating Team recognizes opportunity and need for new mission statement to lead implementation decisions
9. Officers pray about and respond in small groups to the question: "Who is God calling us to be?" Responses are collected into word clouds to guide Coordinating Team's prayerful discernment of new mission statement

May-June 2019

10. Coordinating Team holds multiple discussions to process guidance from officers and develop new mission statement
11. Elders meet with committees to review top priorities and obtain guidance on procedural details for turning visions into reality

July 2019

12. Session approves new mission statement
13. Coordinating Team organizes data from the small groups to create timeline, considering budgetary concerns and need for collaboration. Product is 5-year plan of action with a focus on the church's vision

August 2019

14. TODAY: Coordinating Team presents unified vision to Session: how the new mission statement guides and informs the specific items A-Q on the 5-year vision list plan, noting that work has already begun (one completed, others in process)

September 2019

15. Coordinating Team hosts congregational meeting to present mission, vision & timeline

October 2019

16. Coordinating Team hosts Committee Meeting Night: all committees come together to receive overview and guidance to help them begin vision implementation. Full church input is provided to committees, including many great ideas that were just not consensus "highest priority" items

January 2020 - December 2025

17. Vision implementation!

Vision 2020 Report Attachment 3: Vision Priorities - Timeline Matrix

Priority Plan Timeline Matrix

Each lettered item is a high-level title for one of the church's top echelon of tasks coming out of the visioning process, arranged by target completion date. Note that any of these may begin and complete sooner. This plan is not inflexible, but its purpose is to prioritize, especially with respect to budget & committee workload.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Task	D: Small groups: Bible Study/ Fellowship	I: Children/ Youth Music	H: Increase combined services	C: Utilize church building for more purposes	K: Evangelism activities/ project to reach more people
Lead Committee	CE	Worship	Worship	Property	Task Group
Task	A: All ages in worship	Q: Improve broad communication	B: Better communicate Congregational needs	O: More inter-generational activities	L: Build picnic shelter
Lead Committee	Worship	Communication	Communication	Church Life	Church Life
Task	M: Changes in worship format	G: Stewardship as year-round message	F: Establish/ continue care groups		P: Better technology
Lead Committee	Worship	Stewardship	Congregational Care		Property
Task	N: Better communicate opportunities for service/ mission				
Lead Committee	Communication				
Task	E: Improved Deacon outreach				
Lead Committee	Congregational Care				