

Your Essential Engagement

Each vision value is a conviction about God's direction in this particular season. Experienced together, they will transform us, our church and many in our community. God entrusts the work of his kingdom to his people. We are compelled by the Spirit to be the kind of presence in our world that will display God's true nature. So, join us! Get involved! How might God use you to reach others in and around our community? To learn more about involvement opportunities, visit the hospitality center or our website at www.saratogafederated.org.

Our Second Century of Local Witness

Our heritage gives evidence of God's persistent attention to our community. The first two churches in Saratoga were formed in 1872 and 1878. In 1919 these two community churches (Congregational and Disciples of Christ) decided to "federate"—becoming one Christian fellowship. We have lived the experience of a united community church for more than 90 years.

We now ask ourselves: What does it look like to be faithful to God in our community during the second century of our existence? In the present moment we are giving our attention to the next five years. The culture and our community continually change around us. We must change and adapt in order to reach this evolving community. In light of these realities, we long to become what God desires us to be.

As we seek his direction in this season of change, we ask you to partner with us in prayer and practice. God willing, these seven vision values will become genuine characteristics of our life with each other. We earnestly seek and joyfully anticipate God's leading on this journey of transformation.

Please ponder the implications with us; pray for God's inspiration; and get involved!



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FROM THE INSIDE OUT

A Church-Wide Vision for 2010-2015

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!”*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Our 5-Year Vision Team recently gathered insights from the congregation, elders and staff. During their highly collaborative process, seven vision values were identified as growth priorities. These are not meant to displace anything we are already doing. They are meant to bring fresh focus and application to other existing values. Each value is a strategic form of faithfulness within the present moment of our church's existence.

Your participation and our journey

Since ancient days, the words of the prophets have been tested by their faith communities. The people of Israel measured prophecies to confirm they were of God. Today, we invite you to apply your discernment to the convictions of our leaders. We ask you to ponder each vision value. What is the Spirit inviting you to do or to be? What is your role in our pursuit of each vision value?

We earnestly desire to become so alive to God that our presence in the world will be credible and attractive to others seeking a faith family. When enough of us are being transformed, our congregation will be seen as a place where God is known and people grow. Our theme verse promises this outcome: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

By God's design, this process of growth and change happens to individuals in community. During this interim (as we make discerning self-assessments and pursue a new pastor), we desire to make real progress toward each of these seven vision values.

Spirit-Filled Community

We long to be Christians who desire and experience the Holy Spirit—individually and together. We want to pray and ponder and act and grow under the Spirit's influence.

Authentic Community

We desire a strong sense of internal community, united in our worship of God and our need for his grace. We want to practice an active hospitality that creates a place of intimacy and acceptance.

Joyful Community Service

We want to be motivated by genuine love for our neighbors with overflowing care and service. We want to be a vibrant presence in our community that makes the love of God evident to all.

Reflect Our Neighborhood

We hope to increasingly reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our neighborhood, unified by a passion to follow Christ. We want to excel at the gracious inclusion of those with diverse traditions.

Intergenerational Faith Family

We desire to be a church where children, youth and adults are connected with each other. We long to be a church where people of all ages are valued, encouraged and challenged by each other.

Interpersonal Transparency

We long to be a grace-filled church that imparts freedom and invites truth speaking, where stories of personal transformation are shared openly. We want to be known for high levels of trust and transparency.

Active and Creative Evangelism

We want to offer compelling programs, events and services in venues appealing to unchurched neighbors. We want to be a place where evangelism is personally owned and passionately pursued.