



# VISION PLAN

A Five-Year Strategic Plan

*Through 2010*



*Sharing God's Love, Hope & Healing*



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## PASTOR'S LETTER

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Dear Friends,

The Bible says, “Where there is no vision the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18a) You are holding in your hands a “Vision.” This is a document produced after much prayer and it is given to you from a committed group of people who have been praying and seeking God’s will and future for Christ’s church at Woodland.

When I think about the many Sunday afternoons spent praying and seeking this “Vision,” I am reminded of the story of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk. He was a prophet in Judah and lived in a day when the people in his community and country felt God was irrelevant in their daily lives. Habakkuk yearned for hearts to be turned toward God, he mourned for the lack of spirituality in his friends and neighbors. Habakkuk did not have a vision or plan of his own to reach the hearts of his brothers and sisters in need, so he cried out to God saying: “I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts, I will look to see what He will say.” (Habakkuk 2:1a)

In similar ways, the group compiling this “Vision” and the Prayer Team spent time throughout this process “standing and watching,” praying for the hearts of people in our community and for those who will be reached through the future ministry of Woodland. They gathered without agenda only praying that prayer of Jesus: “Yet not what I want, but what you want.” (Matthew 26:39)

Looking back on the process and comparing our journey to that of the Old Testament prophet mentioned above, I recall that when the Lord replied and gave Habakkuk the vision for his day and time, God said, “Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it.” (Habakkuk 2:2) The prophet was then filled with a sure and certain hope in God and he had the passion to share this hope with his community in need.

In a similar way, it is my prayer that we will share with sure and certain hope the witness of God’s love in Jesus Christ to those in our community. I pray that we will unite toward a common vision and purpose as we effectively “Share God’s Hope, Love and Healing,” with a world and community in need.

In Christ’s Service,

Rev. Cory Smith

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## LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIR

What does the future hold for Woodland United Methodist Church? Where does God want us to be, and what does God want us to be doing five years from now? If we removed all our own ideas and asked God to let us see through His eyes His plan for this church, what would we behold? These are some of the questions faced by the Vision Committee as we began to seek God's plan to move us from where we are now, to where God wants us to be five years from now.

With the support of our dedicated Prayer Team, and with spiritual strength gained from each other in devotion and supplication to God, we started this journey by enlisting the assistance of our church membership. Following our Sunday morning service the congregation gathered for lunch, and for a lengthy discussion of Woodland's values, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Members were encouraged to continue to pray for the vision process, and to offer the committee any other ideas God would lay on their hearts in the weeks ahead.

The committee met ten times on Sunday evenings, every session including prayer and devotion. We considered every idea and suggestion from the church members as we began the process of developing Woodland's Values, our Theme Statement, our Mission Statement, and eventually our Shared Goals. The Vision Plan was reviewed and received by the membership of Woodland United Methodist Church at its Charge Conference on December 4, 2005.

We express our deep appreciation for all the assistance provided by our congregation, and we are grateful for the worship experience gained from this process. We are especially thankful for the direction and leadership of the Holy Spirit in bringing this plan to completion. We pray that God will continue to have His hand on our church as we move forward, and that God will richly bless our individual and collective efforts in fulfilling Woodland's mission.

Prayerfully,

Cam Stanton  
Co-chair

WOODLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THEME STATEMENT

***Sharing God's Hope,  
Love and Healing.***

# WOODLAND VALUES

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## At Woodland United Methodist Church:

- ✿ We know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our lives
- ✿ We know the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter
- ✿ We strive to glorify God and do God's will
- ✿ We believe in the power of prayer
- ✿ We rejoice in our worship experience which strengthens and renews us for service
- ✿ As disciples of Jesus Christ we grow through the study of God's word and carry the Word into the world
- ✿ We recognize our blessings come from God
- ✿ We value our church family and the strength of our loving relationships as a reflection of God's love for us
- ✿ We value the contributions of all persons as they share their God-given gifts in service to others
- ✿ We recognize children and youth as vital members of our congregation
- ✿ We believe music is sanctioned by God and is an integral part of worship
- ✿ We value the traditions of the United Methodist Church as our connection to a larger body of believers

## MISSION STATEMENT

*“At Woodland United Methodist Church our mission is to glorify God through life-changing worship, studying and living His word, making disciples, and serving our neighbors everywhere. We rely on prayer and the constant presence of the Holy Spirit to seek and embrace God’s will. We reach out to others with the love of Jesus Christ who provides hope and healing for our daily lives.”*

## GOD CALLS US TO SERVICE

*To fulfill our mission, we at Woodland United Methodist Church believe that God has called us into three dimensions of service that include (1) Reaching Out to Others With God’s Hope; (2) Sharing God’s Love; and (3) Offering God’s Healing for Our Daily Lives.*

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# To accomplish this work, we set forth the following shared goals:

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## REACHING OUT TO OTHERS WITH GOD'S HOPE

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1. Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”  
(Assigned to all persons and committees)
2. Hire an Activities Director to begin an Upward Athletics league and to schedule activities that maximize the use of the gymnasium/family life center for all ages.  
(Staff Parrish Committee)
3. Start an after school program to include such activities as scouting, tutoring, dance and gymnastics.  
(Community Outreach Team)
4. Prepare our facilities to serve as an evacuation/crisis center.  
(Trustees/Disaster Response Team)
5. Build a 600-seat church sanctuary.  
(Trustees/Worship/Finance Committees)
6. Grow our membership to 700 by 2010.  
(Pastor/Welcoming Committee)
7. Develop specific guidelines to assure that visitors are properly welcomed and greeted both outside and inside the sanctuary.  
(Welcoming Committee)
8. Develop a drama team to enhance our worship experience and provide greater outreach to the community.  
(Worship Committee)
9. Increase our support of prison ministries to include inmate families.  
(Missions Committee)
10. Create a response team to provide immediate assistance to persons in times of crisis.  
(Nurture and Membership Care Committee)

11. Sponsor periodic neighborhood events whereby all residents of a particular area are invited to a “meet your neighbor” social event at Woodland.  
(Community Outreach Committee)

## SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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12. Begin a full-time certified Day Care Center.  
(Mothers' Day Out Committee)
13. Hire a Christian Education Director to develop Bible study opportunities to include both traditional and nontraditional schedules.  
(Staff Parrish/Education Committees)
14. Build and equip five all-purpose rooms and five offices.  
(Trustees/Education Committee)
15. Complete the gymnasium to serve as a Family Life Center for multi-purpose needs.  
(Trustees/Community Outreach Committee)
16. Provide mobile food service capability in the Family Life Center lobby area.  
(Education Committee)
17. Develop a coordinated transportation ministry to support existing and future programs.  
(Trustees)
18. Identify an associate pastor to assist the senior minister in pastoral care.  
(Staff Parrish Committee)
19. Expand the music staff to ensure meaningful and diverse musical worship experiences at all our services.  
(Staff Parrish/Music Committees)
20. Join with other local churches to grow our youth programs.  
(Education Committee/Youth Minister)
21. Expand senior programs to provide recreation at the church at least twice weekly.  
(Nurture and Membership Care Committee)

22. Make available enrichment programs and activities for married couples and single adults.  
(Education Committee/Christian Education Director)
23. Establish a vibrant visitation ministry to include new member mentoring and visitation of absentees.  
(Welcoming Committee)
24. Recognize the vital and demanding role of our pastor and provide the support and assistance needed in performing pastoral duties.  
(Staff Parrish Committee)
25. Increase enrollment in Sunday School and Bible study to 75% of church membership and develop strategies to improve weekly attendance.  
(Education Committee)
26. Create a “Stephen’s Ministry” to reach out to those who are ill or in crisis.  
(Nurture and Membership Care Committee/Pastor)
27. Evaluate the shared goals of Woodland’s Vision Plan each fall and present a progress report to the congregation no later than the end of the year.  
(Lay Leadership Committee/Pastor)
29. Create a prayer venue that’s available and accessible at all hours.  
(Prayer Ministry Committee/Trustees)
30. Build an outside labyrinth (prayer walk) opportunity for worship that is open all hours to the entire community.  
(Prayer Ministry Committee/Trustees)
31. Offer family counseling services for the community.  
(Community Outreach Committee)
32. Engage every member of our church in some form of Christian service.  
(Missions/Lay Leadership Committees)
33. Expand worship opportunities to include healing services, services devoted to music, weekly Holy Communion and other special needs.  
(Worship Committee/Pastor)
34. Open our doors to embrace community support groups.  
(Community Outreach Committee)
35. Strengthen our relationship with schools in our community.  
(Community Outreach Committee)
36. Involve our children in hands-on mission projects in our community and worldwide.  
(Missions Committee/Youth Minister)

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## OFFERING GOD’S HEALING

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28. Begin a prayer ministry that includes an intercessory prayer team of at least 20 people who will pray for our worship services each Sunday, for those on our prayer list, prayer requests from the Internet, and other concerns.  
(Prayer Ministry Committee)
37. Develop a committee structure to support the mission of the church.  
(Church Council/Lay Leadership Committee)



# IMPLEMENTING GOD'S PLAN

It is recognized that all church members will work together to accomplish the goals set out in God's plan for Woodland. To assist in the implementation, specific goals in the Vision Plan are assigned to one or more individuals or committees. Committee chairs and individual members, upon accepting their leadership responsibilities in the church, agree to work toward completion of goals assigned to their area. Following are the steps to be taken to assure the implementation of each goal in the plan:

1. At the beginning of the first year of the plan, those individuals who have accepted leadership responsibilities within the church will review the Vision Plan and identify those goals assigned to their areas of responsibility.
2. At the first committee meeting of the year, each chair will present to the full committee those goals assigned to them and the committee will plan strategies to move the goals toward completion. (If the goals are assigned to an individual, that person should follow the same process).
3. In the Fall of each year, each committee chair will complete a provided form to indicate the progress made toward the completion of each goal assigned to the committee (or person).
4. A Vision Plan progress report will be presented to the entire church near the end of each year.
5. At the beginning of each succeeding year, committees and individuals will review the progress made during the past year and continue work toward completion of each unaccomplished goal.

## GOAL ASSIGNMENTS

### **Pastor**

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: "Will this activity bring others to Christ?"
- Grow our membership to 700 by 2010.
- Create a "Stephen's Ministry" to reach out to those who are ill or in crisis.
- Evaluate the shared goals of Woodland's Vision Plan each fall and present a progress report to the congregation no later than the end of the year.

- Expand worship opportunities to include healing services, services devoted to music, weekly Holy Communion and other special needs.

### **Board of Trustees**

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: "Will this activity bring others to Christ?"
- Prepare our facilities to serve as an evacuation/crisis center.
- Build a 600 seat church sanctuary.
- Complete the gymnasium to serve as a Family Life Center for multi-purpose needs.
- Build and equip five all-purpose rooms and five offices.
- Develop a coordinated transportation ministry to support existing and future programs.
- Create a prayer venue that's available and accessible at all hours.
- Build an outside labyrinth (prayer walk) opportunity for worship that is open all hours to the entire community.

### **Church Council**

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: "Will this activity bring others to Christ?"
- Develop a committee structure to support the mission of the church.

### **Worship Committee**

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: "Will this activity bring others to Christ?"
- Build a 600 seat church sanctuary.
- Develop a drama team to enhance our worship experience and provide greater outreach to the community.
- Expand worship opportunities to include healing services, services devoted to music, weekly Holy Communion and other special needs.

### **Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: "Will this activity bring others to Christ?"
- Hire an activities Director to begin an Upward Athletics league to schedule activities that maximize the use of the gymnasium/family life center for all ages.
- Prepare our facilities to serve as an evacuation/crisis center.

- Hire a Christian Education Director to develop Bible study opportunities to include both traditional and nontraditional schedules.
- Identify an associate pastor to assist the senior minister in pastoral care.
- Expand the music staff to ensure meaningful and diverse musical worship experiences at all our services.
- Recognize the vital and demanding role of our pastor and provide the support and assistance needed in performing pastoral duties.

### Finance Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Build a 600 seat church sanctuary.

### Welcoming Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Grow our membership to 700 by 2010.
- Develop specific guidelines to assure that visitors are properly welcomed and greeted both outside and inside the sanctuary.
- Establish a vibrant visitation ministry to include new member mentoring and visitation of absentees.

### Education Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Hire a Christian Education Director to develop Bible study opportunities to include both traditional and nontraditional schedules.
- Build and equip five all-purpose rooms and five offices.
- Provide mobile food service capability in the Family Life Center lobby area.
- Join with other local churches to grow our youth programs.
- Make available enrichment programs and activities for married couples and single adults.
- Increase enrollment in Sunday School and Bible study to 75% of church membership and develop strategies to improve weekly attendance.

### Missions Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Increase our support of prison ministries to include inmate families.
- Engage every member of our church in some form of Christian service.

- Involve our children in hands-on mission projects in our community and worldwide.

### Nurture and Membership Care Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Create a response team to provide immediate assistance to persons in times of crisis.
- Expand senior programs to provide recreation at the church at least twice weekly.
- Create a “Stephen’s Ministry” to reach out to those who are ill or in crisis.

### Lay Leadership Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Engage every member of our church in some form of Christian service.
- Develop a committee structure to support the mission of the church.
- Evaluate the shared goals of Woodland’s Vision Plan each fall and present a progress report to the congregation no later than the end of the year.

### Music Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Expand the music staff to ensure meaningful and diverse musical worship experiences at all our services.

### Christian Education Director

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Make available enrichment programs and activities for married couples and single adults.

### Youth Minister

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Join with other local churches to grow our youth programs.
- Involve our children in hands-on mission projects in our community and worldwide.

### Community Outreach Team

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Sponsor periodic neighborhood events whereby all residents of a particular area are invited to a “meet your neighbor” social event at Woodland. Complete the gymnasium to serve as a Family Life Center for multi-purpose needs.

Start an after school program to include such activities as scouting, tutoring, dance and gymnastics.

- Offer family counseling services for the community.
- Open our doors to embrace community support groups.
- Strengthen our relationship with schools in our community.

### Disaster Response Team

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Prepare our facilities to serve as an evacuation/crisis center.

### Prayer Ministry Team

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Begin a prayer ministry that includes an intercessory prayer team of at least 20 people who will pray for

our worship services each Sunday, for those on our prayer list, prayer requests from the Internet, and other concerns.

- Create a prayer venue that’s available and accessible at all hours.
- Build an outside labyrinth (prayer walk) opportunity for worship that is open all hours to the entire community.

### Mothers’ Day Out Committee

- Begin every activity of the church with this question: “Will this activity bring others to Christ?”
- Begin a fulltime certified Day Care Center.

(NOTE: Numerous goals are assigned to more than one committee or person.)

## VISION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Frances Ard

Don Cooley

Lynn Davis

Chuck Gambrell

Ashley James

Paula Lansdon

Ronnie LeMay

Julia Norris

Rev. Cory Smith

Cam Stanton

Elvin Stanton

Bill Younkin



# NOTES

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(Jesus prayed to his Heavenly Father)

*“...Yet not what I want,  
but what you want.”*

(Matthew 26:39 NRSV)

For further information please contact:

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