



THE VISION PLAN

of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ

CORE PURPOSE

Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action. In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

Continuing Testament

Our faith is 2000 years old. Our thinking is not. God is still speaking,

Extravagant Welcome

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

Changing Lives

Never place a period where God has placed a comma

BOLD, INSPIRATIONAL GOALS (BIGs)

1. Bold, Public Voice

The UCC is a bold, widely-known and respected public voice of Christianity in service of God's ever-unfolding mission.

2. Welcoming, Reachable Congregations

There is a welcoming UCC community of faith that is accessible to all — no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

3. Engaged Discipleship

Every UCC person is well-equipped to be growing in faith, be theologically conversant, and be active in the global mission of the church.

4. Excellent, Diverse Leaders

The UCC has a wealth of prepared, excellent leaders that reflect the diversity of God's beloved community.

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STRATEGIES

The Faith In Project

Launched at National Youth Event in July 2012, the project is a missional “God is still speaking,” ministry and marketing initiative to position the United Church of Christ to engage — with specificity — God’s movement in the neighborhoods, towns and cities where God calls us to serve.

Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days

Held in April and May 2013, this all-church mission initiative brought churches together to green up, power down, and shout out for the environment — while planting more than 130,000 trees, writing more than 50,000 letters of environmental advocacy, and contributing nearly 600,000 hours of earth care.

Reading Changes Lives

Planned for the fall of 2014, this is an aggressive, sustained all-church literacy campaign to reverse the looming disparity affecting children and youth who are overlooked because of race, economic marginalization, and/or learning style.

The Stillspeaking Worship Institute

A twice-annual event hosted by diverse local churches, or other settings, with an emphasis on the experience of culturally diverse, accessible and replicable approaches to worship — as lived, shared experiences as the primary teaching tools.

Intercultural Ministries Soar

A Centers of Excellence model of Intercultural Multi-ethnic (I’M) Ministries – extravagant welcome demonstrated through practices of hospitality and accessibility; vibrant and diverse styles of worship, justice engagement that confronts power and marginalization; and equipped clergy and lay leadership with intercultural competencies and experience.

The Stillspeaking Leadership Institute

A multiple-year training and equipping program for leaders, both clergy and lay, of all ages and diversities, who are deeply interested and engaged in helping the wider UCC, and the Stillspeaking movement, to flourish and prosper.

Extravagance UCC

We imagine a diverse, fully inclusive community of people from around the globe coming together in many ways that include online interaction and connection in order to proclaim and extend God’s extravagant welcome.

Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (LED)

A flexible, biblically-grounded, non-issue-based justice curriculum and training program designed to engage and develop justice leaders for the church and community.