

First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio

Mission Statement and Health Assessment Report

This report is an update on the results of the Mission Study Group's work. This report presents our church's Mission Statement, summarizes the Needs of the Congregation, describes our Pastoral Needs and provides a guide to our short-term future.

The Mission Study Group (MSG) started meeting in May, 2011 to answer the following questions:

- Who are we as a congregation?
- What is God calling us to do?
- What kind of pastoral leadership do we need?
- How do we get there?

The MSG answered these questions as we studied our church's history, conducted a SWOT analysis (discussing our **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats), conducted surveys of the congregation and held small group discussions to review those results and collect further inputs from the congregation. These efforts and the MSG's continual prayer for the discernment of God's will for our church gave us our Mission Statement, identified our church's priorities and clarified our pastoral needs.

Who We Are As A Congregation: Mission Statement

We are a long established church that takes our relationship with God and our call to share the Gospel with the world very seriously. This is reflected in the following mission statement.

First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio is growing in faith by building stronger relationships with God and community through prayer and worship. The reading and understanding of God's Word strengthens our commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through love and service to our neighbor so that all may experience God's grace.

What God Is Calling Us To Do: Our Needs and Priorities

Your inputs, as collected by the MSG, yielded these priorities:

- The most important thing our church can do is to understand and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone.
- We also need to encourage and support each other as we each discover our unique God given gifts and talents and seek ways to use those gifts and talents to do God's work.
- Each of us needs to actively continue our Christian education as we seek the knowledge and wisdom that can only come from the Holy Spirit.
- Every one of us regularly needs to actively participate in worship services and prayer as we seek God's counsel.
- Our congregation should continue to care for all members, their families and our neighbors by sharing in their joys and sorrows as we continue to embrace the Christ-like lifestyle.

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Our Present Pastoral Leadership Needs

- This Pastor must appreciate the 200 year old legacy of this congregation and the root beliefs of the reformed traditions of the Presbyterian Church.
- This Pastor's highest priority should be a dynamic Worship Service that balances traditional and contemporary modes of worship, always proclaiming and teaching the Word of God.
- The Pastor should also be focused on the spiritual development of all members of the congregation, young and old.
- Pastoral care should include visiting the sick and shut-ins, counseling troubled members and encouraging Christian education of all members.
- At the same time the Pastor must be able to manage and balance the Pastor's own needs and the needs of the Pastor's family.
- The Pastor should understand, support and work with the church leadership and administration to encourage active involvement and open honest communications.
- The Pastor must be approachable by and active in the community, sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the teaching of God's Word.

How We Hope To Proceed From Here

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church Harrison, Ohio is at a place of transition. We have an opportunity to evaluate our leadership and team structures as well as our communications and administrative efforts to improve and enhance our witness as God's people. Understanding and adjusting the way we build community and help to change lives will enable the church to continue to be God's light in this dark world.

The MSG plans to share this report along with the Mission Statement with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and the results will be reflected in the Church Information Form that the PNC writes to describe our church to prospective pastors. This report can be a very useful tool as we search for a long-term pastor.

While we wait for the PNC to complete their work the Mission Study Group will continue to work with Session and the committees and groups of our church to help each group work towards our common mission. Using the Mission Statement as our guide, it is now time for all members and friends to pray, seek and use God's gifts for their active and continued participation in the life of God's church located at 115 South Vine Street, Harrison, Ohio.

It is vital that each one of us understand that the future of the First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio rests on our willingness to take responsibility and embrace who we are and God's call for our church and to actively work to live out our Mission Statement.