



FUTURES TASK FORCE SUMMARY

The **Futures Task Force** was established to hear the voice of the congregation regarding what is valued in our current environment: where we are, who we are, and how God is present within our community. Then, to look into the future by describing a vision of how we can bridge the best of what “is”, with the best of what “can be”.

THE APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY PROCESS:

DISCOVERY	DREAM	DESIGN	DESTINY
Develop, design and plan the listening sessions <i>(Spring/Summer 2023)</i>	Facilitate 22 listening sessions for 171 participants <i>(Fall/Winter 2023/24)</i>	Analyze the over 800 hopes and dreams shared to build the report <i>(Spring 2024)</i>	Implement with the confidence of knowing who we are and what we're called to do

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT:

Why did we do this:

In celebration of SLUMC’s 40th anniversary, it was recognized we need to establish a foundation on which we can plan the future of SLUMC. The Task Force was established to hear the voice of the congregation regarding what is valued today and envisioned for the future.

Call to Action:

Our laity, staff, and clergy will need to understand the values and priorities of this report to inform the prioritization of church ministries, programs, and financial strategy moving forward. This will provide the congregation with a clear vision for SLUMC’s future.

Values & Vision:

The questions used to elicit the values and vision of the congregation centered on themes of:

- Fostering a welcoming & engaging environment.
- Practices that are exciting and impactful to our congregation.
- Connection with the greater community.
- How to best use our resources.

WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THIS INFORMATION?

Laity:
Use the information in this report to provide direction for the future of the church while honoring what the community at SLUMC appreciates and recognizes as fundamental to the identity of the church. Lay Committees will use the direction from this report to influence and prioritize the appropriate initiatives, investments, and ministries within SLUMC.

Staff:
Use the information and data in this report to inform decisions they make within their departments and ministries to provide alignment with the voices of the congregation. This includes decisions on the implementation of ministries and prioritization of resources and time to activities and ministries aligned with the desires of the congregation.

Clergy Team:
Use the wide array of themes in this report to provide inspiration for sermons and to fine-tune worship opportunities. Identify how SLUMC can have a long-term and far-reaching impact in our community. Support key leaders and staff members to execute on what the congregation has shared as what they value at SLUMC and what is dreamed in the future.



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Below is a high-level summary of the results of the congregants views on the **best of what is, and the best of what can be:**

Continue to Support...

Consider...

Welcoming & Engaging

- Sacred & holy moments (Advent, Easter, Baptisms, Confirmation, etc.)
- Genuineness and authenticity at SLUMC
- Sense of belonging for participants
- Multi-generational elements of church community
- Invitational spirit among each other
- Vast array of music ministries

- Enhance fellowship opportunities
- Additional small-group & education opportunities
- Radical hospitality & inclusiveness
- Growing Brave Spaces
- Enhancing care & support for congregants in need
- Ensure healthy family & youth programs
- Refreshes worship experience

Community Connectivity

- Diverse outreach and mission efforts
- Active participation in community outreach
- Continue to support deep mission and ministry opportunities
- Openness of our building and programs to the community
- Address social justice issues

- Make our presence known in the community
- Expand our faith leadership among peers in the community
- Expand ways we grow and equip individuals to serve
- Find new ways to attract families, meet visitors where they are

Effective use of Resources

- Utilize our building to support and serve the community
- Engage the volunteer power of the community
- Drive transparency regarding our financial position
- Coordination across stakeholders regarding use of resources

- Additional transparency details
- Plan capital campaign to ensure viability of our property
- Set appropriate compensation levels for staff and clergy
- Educate congregation to give in different ways that meet them where they are financially
- Identify alternative revenue sources

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

Share this Report:

This summary and full report are going to be made available to the full congregation along with the report being shared and presented to staff, clergy (including Rev Calob), and key lay teams within SLUMC

Vision in Action:

Host four sessions with congregants to provide insight on the implementation of what is envisioned.

Implementation:

The Executive Team chartered the Future's Task Force and own the report. The report should be a reference for future initiatives, programming and prioritization within SLUMC

This document is an executive summary of the full report.

4/28/24