

DISCERNING OUR FAITHFUL FUTURE

POWERED BY MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF WESTERN - LED BY THE VISION TEAM

A Process of Discernment and Planning

Session, our board of elders, has recognized that Western is now at a unique point in its organizational life. Over the last few years, several studies and surveys have been undertaken and lifted up many priorities for the church's work. In that same time, we have experienced many transitions in pastoral leadership.

Now that Rev. Laura Cunningham has been with the church for a year, the Session has elected to enter into a process of discernment and planning. In this process, we will sort through the results of previous studies, engage in conversation about today's needs, and listen individually and collectively to discern and plan for God's call on our future as the Body of Christ. The process will culminate in an Action Plan to be implemented in early 2017.

The Vision Team

To help us along the way, Session has confirmed a team of Westerners who answered the call to manage this process.

This Vision Team includes:

Lauren Amos	John Bader	Ben Dills
Beverly Gyllenhaal	Susie Farr	Todd Trafford
Rev. Laura Cunningham		

In addition, facilitators Eunice and Sherwood Shankland have been engaged to help guide us as we discern God's will for Western's future.

The Vision Team intends to create many opportunities for every voice to be heard and for all perspectives to be shared. The team is committed to a process which embodies our prayer for God's will to be done in and through our community of faith.

*We'll ask two main questions
as we journey together through this effort:*

**What is God calling us to become as a
Community of Faith at Western?**

**What is God's personal call for me to
embody our mission in this place?**

You're Invited to Participate in the Process!

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER:

Sermon Series

Attend worship, where Rev. Laura Cunningham will guide us in exploring what discernment is as we look at scripture and our own lives.

Community Conversations

Join in one or more of the small group conversations on church life that will be organized by the Vision Team. Sunday morning groups will meet at 9:45 am and 12:30pm on September 18, 25, October 2, and 9. Look for more information on other days and times.

Festival Gathering: Sunday, October 16

Participate in this community-wide conversation on a Sunday morning. This time will balance our other work done in small groups.

NOVEMBER

Leadership Retreat: November 4-6

Elders, Deacons, incoming officers, and other ministry leaders will meet to reflect on the insights gained from community conversations and recommend priorities for the Action Plan.

DECEMBER

Festival Gathering: Sun., December 4

Join this second community-wide conversation as our leaders share the recommendations created at the leadership retreat with the whole congregation for discussion and feedback.

Developing the Action Plan

Ministry and committees will join in creating detailed implementation plans and budgets.

JANUARY

Adopting the Action Plan

Early in 2017 we will launch our new initiatives with a congregational celebration and call to action.