



# Walking in the Way of Jesus

## A Spiritual Blueprint and Strategic Plan for Cotuit Federated Church

Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious  
life?

~Mary Oliver

### Our Vision

Because of our shared commitment to follow Jesus Christ, we envision a community of faith that not only honors who we are but also who we are called to be with God. In that spirit, we covenant to be helpful to each other, assuming the best of one another.

We desire to have our spirits expanded so that we are ready to discover who we are in God. We seek fellowship with one another because of the joy found when we are truly known.

We eagerly nurture compassionate hearts, grateful spirits and a readiness to embrace what God puts before us. We work to be loving and open, in the hope that what God imagines for us will be realized.

We aim in all things to be devoted to the mission of being Christ's hands in the Church, the community and the world.

# Grounded in Gratitude

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

-2 Corinthians 4:7

Because we are abundantly blessed by God with the gifts of time, talent and treasure, we will:

1. Encourage people to recognize their God-given gifts and discern ways to use them.
  - a. Expand the equipping model of ministry and spiritual growth into all aspects of congregational life.
  - b. Provide educational opportunities for individuals and teams.
  - c. Open personal conversations with new and current members to uncover where they feel holy and alive.
  - d. Foster a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness for all those who share their gifts in our church, community and world.
2. Create and implement plans to meet both long and short term needs for utilizing all CFC properties as places of spiritual growth.
  - a. Create and follow a maintenance schedule for all properties, prioritized and coordinated with the annual budget.
  - b. Create and prioritize plans for proposed future changes and/or additions.
  - c. Be mindful regarding upkeep of our properties by making the most environmentally friendly choices possible.
3. Create and implement faithful financial management plans to meet long and short term needs.
  - a. Create and follow an annual operating budget.
  - b. Create and prioritize a long range projection of future changes.
  - c. Consider a capital campaign to meet needs identified in long range plans.
4. Periodically review and update our spirit-guided governance to support our initiatives and open us to the Holy Spirit.





# Spiritually Alive

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

-Jesus, John 10:10

Because we wish to be a conduit of God’s love, a wellspring of spiritual growth, and a sanctuary for Holy worship, we will:

1. Manifest the living God in our worship.
  - a. Explore music, storytelling, dramatic arts, media, and visual arts to make worship creative and relevant.
  - b. Include classical, traditional, contemporary, choral, ensemble, folk, world and secular musical offerings.
  - c. Break bread at Dinner Church, an evening worship service held around the table.
2. Practice Sabbath.
  - a. Encourage, respect and honor the rhythms of service and rest.
  - b. Explore ways to share what we are doing to celebrate Sabbath.
  - c. Explore creating a meditation garden and labyrinth.
3. Welcome children, youth and adults of all ages as an integral part of our community.
  - a. Provide Confirmation classes, Our Whole Lives faith and sexuality program, and Church School.
  - b. Encourage children, youth and adults to lead and participate in our worship and in all aspects of church life.
4. Deepen our journey with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Pray for one another.
  - b. Offer Bible Study and small group opportunities.
  - c. Preach scripture-based sermons and design worship that lead us into deeper understanding of social issues.
  - d. Practice peace and forgiveness through prayer, reflection and confession, for example, the ritual of making peace cranes.
  - e. Reflect on our Epiphany Stars as a means of discovery and ownership of one’s spiritual call.



# Beloved Community

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

~1 John 4:7

Because we seek to be a joyful and compassionate community, where people are welcomed to live authentically and with integrity, we will:

1. Covenant to love one another, assuming the best of each other.
2. Practice hospitality as we work to expand our welcome, and celebrate our diversity.
  - a. Explore the Open and Affirming (UCC) and Reconciling (UMC) process.
  - b. Redesign our website to include information from all aspects of our church life and expand our social media outreach.
  - c. Develop specific points of contact for our members, newcomers and the community.
3. Create opportunities for people to come together to know one another more deeply, have fun together, and act as a community that extends beyond the walls of our building.
4. Care for one another.
  - a. Support one another with prayers, meals, cards, and other tangible acts of love through the Deacons, Called to Care, Stephen Ministry, and individual actions.
  - b. Explore lend-a-hand group opportunities within the church and community.
  - c. Form an Emergency Readiness Team, coordinated with the Fire Department.
  - d. Offer educational opportunities such as CPR training, hospice care, addiction awareness/support.
5. Select the appropriate pastoral and support staff to best meet our needs and support our staff with a nurturing and comfortable working environment.
  - a. Maintain up-to-date competitive personnel practices.
  - b. Determine ideal size, number and types of worship services offered.
  - c. Support the pastor in taking time for Sabbath.



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

# Christ's Hands

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

-Micah 6:8

Because we strive to be Christ's living hands in the Church, the community, and the world, we will:

1. Embody God's love through mission.
  - a. Encourage new missions as people feel called by God.
  - b. Affirm existing mission programs such Feeding the 5000 project, Holiday Baskets, and care packages for college students and military personnel.
  - c. Conduct periodic “drives”, i.e. diapers, coats, school supplies, canned goods, blood drives, and rummage sales.
  - d. Explore partnering with national/international organizations to extend mission beyond our local community, through mission trips and special giving.
2. Embody God's love through social justice.
  - a. Dismantle institutional racism, beginning with Sacred Conversations on Race.
  - b. Advocate for the rights of the marginalized.
  - c. Address cycles of poverty and homelessness, with sustainable and systematic change.
  - d. Support recovery from addiction.
3. Partner with community groups to be a responsible and responsive part of our local community. Our partners in Cotuit Village include:
  - a. The Cotuit Library
  - b. Cotuit Fire Rescue Department
  - c. Cotuit Civic Association
  - d. Cotuit Kettleers
  - e. Boy Scouts
  - f. Cahoon Museum
4. Partner with community service agencies as we live out Christ's call to minister to the least, the lost, and the lonely. We partner with:
  - a. The Cape Cod Council of Churches
    - i. Homeless not Hopeless, especially the Elise House
    - ii. A Baby Center
  - b. Habitat for Humanity
  - c. Miracle Kitchen
  - d. Faith Neighborhood Kitchen



Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the hands,  
with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.  
~St. Teresa of Ávila



## Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.



Created with faith, hope and love by the Vision Keepers,  
with gratitude for the feedback from the entire congregation and our Team Ministries.  
To be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on June 14, 2015.