

# **Top Ministry Priorities**

## **Springing from the Visioning Process**

### **Massanutten Presbyterian Church**

#### **June 8, 2009**

#### **Introduction**

A thorough review of the data generated through the extensive Visioning Process carried out in April and May, 2009, enabled the Vision Planning Team to distill 13 Overall Priorities. The 13 themes that emerged included the following ministry areas: *Member Assimilation and Retention; Worship; Evangelism; Small Groups; Adult Education; Go Green; Local Mission; National/Global Mission; Ministry to Youth and Children; Reduce Debt and Establish Financial Stability; Build Connections (Fellowship within the community of faith); Congregational Care; and Facilities Issues (Accessibility, Use, Etc.).*

The MPC Session and Board of Deacons met together on June 8 for a time of prayer and discernment with the purpose of narrowing those 13 Overall Priorities to a smaller focus of 4-6 Top Ministry Priorities for the near future.

While there are essential ministries related to each of the 13 Overall Priorities as identified through the Visioning Process which will continue to receive prayerful and programmatic attention, the Session, with the invaluable input of the Board of Deacons, identified the following **6 Top Ministry Priorities** and began to identify some action steps that will support each priority in tangible ways.

Each Ministry Priority listed below contains a descriptive statement which defines the preferred hope for our congregation in each of the areas, as well as some initial steps to making that imagined future come to life.

#### **1. Member Assimilation and Retention**

The current members of Massanutten Presbyterian Church see it as their responsibility to share the hospitality of Christ with those outside of the congregation by inviting people to join us on the journey; joyfully and intentionally welcoming all guests; and inviting them to become a member of the congregation; as well as ensuring that current and potential members are equipped for ministry and cared for by the congregation.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Persistent and conscious effort in following up with visitors, new members, and absent members.
- Member Assimilation and Retention Ministry.
- Revise Friendship Folder format.
- Train Lay Leaders more thoroughly to extend an invitation to visitors.
- Revise Greeters list to have a regular Greeter each week.

## 2. **Worship**

Worship is truly the center of our life together. We seek to worship with theological and artistic integrity and excellence. We will provide worship that is marked by congregational participation through lay leadership, prayers, musical offerings, testimony and responses.

### Action Steps:

- What can we do in context of current worship?
- Begin looking at alternate styles of congregational singing.
- Look at all of the ideas and prioritize.

## 3. **Local Mission**

Massanutten Presbyterian Church seeks to be faithful in ministry to the local area with financial support, additional personal resources, encouraging and equipping members for hands on ministry to our neighbors.

### Action Steps:

- More Minute for Missions – to publicize specific projects and needs
- Identify *coordinator* for specific projects
- Identify service groups
  - Boy Scouts
  - JMU, Bridgewater College
  - Massanetta Springs Campers
  - Ann to identify additional projects
- Identify 25 people not presently actively involved in local missions and get them involved

## 4. **Ministry to Youth and Children**

As a congregation we provide the foundation, fellowship, service, teaching and education from which our youth and children develop Christ-centered lives of integrity and faithfulness, and we are committed to providing the resources necessary for excellence, as well as calling, equipping, and supporting those who minister with our children and youth

### Action Steps:

- Parental involvement so that their children will come and be engaged.
- Adult Education on a 6 week rotation, coordinating parents in Faith Village.
- Financial Support for our middle and high school youth.
- More conferences for our middle and high school youth.

## **5. Congregational Care**

Members of the community of faith know that they are loved, cared for, and thought of – especially during moments of pastoral significance. We are committed to providing programs of oversight (Shepherd Groups, Stephen Ministry, Visitation Team) so that no one fails to receive the care we all seek to receive and give. As members to take responsibility for welcoming, getting acquainted and follow up with phone calls, invitation and concerns for them.

### Action Steps:

- Recommit as officers to the Shepherding Program.
- As individual members, commit to consciously reaching out to those we know and those we don't know.
- Continue to explore establishing the Stephen Ministry.

## **6. Reduce Debt and Establish Financial Stability**

The congregation is committed to managing the current debt in such a way as to ensure that our ministry is not hindered. We recognize that financial stability will enable the congregation's ministry to expand in incredible ways.

### Action Steps:

- Immediately pay down as much as possible to reduce the outstanding principal on the current loan.
- Conduct a Ministry Enhancement Campaign to enable increased funding of opportunities in the Top 6 Priority areas.