

“See I am making all things new.” Revelation 21:5



**Washington Street United Methodist Church
Strategic Ministry Plan: Renewal 2020
2015-2020**

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Executive Summary

I. Introduction

This Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) for Washington Street United Methodist Church (WSUMC) in Columbia, South Carolina, was begun in the early fall of 2014. Commissioned by the WSUMC Church Council, this long-term plan has evolved through a number of specific, intentional steps: the appointment of a Vision Coordination Team (VCT) with Sam Waldrep and Nancy Whittle as co-chairs; consultation with Reverend Sara White, director of Congregational Development, from the SC United Methodist Conference and coordination of WSUMC’s plans with those proposed by the Conference for downtown Columbia; employment of a consultant, Reverend Mark Tidsworth, president of Pinnacle Leadership Associates; the commission of the entire church to enter into a time of discernment held on February 8, 2015; Lenten preparation (February 18—April 5) involving 40 days of prayer; congregational feedback obtained by means of 20 Listening Group sessions in April and May with 133 persons participating; and a series of intense VCT meetings during which the congregational feedback was assessed and initiatives were developed.

The purpose of this SMP is to provide vision through discernment, a strong set of recommendations for the next five years in the life of WSUMC, and a sense of direction as the congregation seeks to follow God’s calling. An attached Implementation Plan gives the specifics for the recommendations.

This SMP orders the initiatives in two categories: Downtown Columbia Renewal and WSUMC Renewal:

Downtown Columbia Renewal

- Downtown Initiative
- Mission Ministry Initiative
- Communication Initiative
- Church Campus Initiative
- Music Initiative

WSUMC Renewal

- Identity Initiative
- Faith Formation Initiative
- Hospitality and Connections Initiative
- Organizational and Staffing Initiative



II. Recommendations

Provided below is a listing of the primary recommendations for each initiative:

Downtown Columbia Renewal

A. Downtown Initiative

Recommendation: WSUMC will participate in the downtown renaissance, giving our best to making Columbia a better community which reflects the kingdom of God. Since this opportunity seems to be a Kairos moment for WSUMC, we recommend that this initiative be an important initiative of Renewal 2020 and receive high priority investment by WSUMC during the coming three to five years.

B. Mission Ministry Initiative

Recommendations: We recommend that WSUMC engage in visioning and strategic planning with the Soup Cellar in a move toward expanded ministry. We recommend that the CDC Board engage with the Implementation Leadership Team to explore an expanded role for the CDC. We recommend that the existing Missions Committee (or a new group with a similar purpose) establish and train a Disaster Response Team.

C. Communication Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that WSUMC develop a comprehensive communication strategy followed by implementation which clearly communicates with the church's community and enhances internal communication.

D. Church Campus Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that WSUMC accelerate its use of its campus for ministry and engagement with our community.

E. Music Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that WSUMC strengthen its music ministry, engaging even more WSUMC disciples and becoming part of our mission ministry in our community.

WSUMC Renewal

A. Identity Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that WSUMC embrace its new motto, identity statement, and core values.

B. Faith Formation Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that every WSUMC disciple engage intentional faith formation in various ways, especially those outlined in the “Process” section in this initiative’s section of the SMP.

C. Hospitality and Connections Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that WSUMC strengthen its community of faith connections (fellowship) while intentionally increasing its Christian hospitality for newcomers to this faith community.

D. Organizational and Staffing Initiative

Recommendation: We recommend that WSUMC shift its organizational structure so that the new structure clearly supports the initiatives in the SMP. We recommend that WSUMC design a new staffing configuration which will support and advance the initiatives of the SMP.