



## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010

Moderator Laurie Jolicoeur called the annual meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. and Beth Mrkvicka opened with a prayer.

The business portion of the meeting began with a preview of the FUSH Coffee House event. The staff shared the following highlights of the past year:

- Jeff Foels is having an outstanding experience as an intern at First United.
- Mark Buck is happy that Faith in Action now has a line item in our budget.
- Leah Fowler is excited to be planning Adult Education programs and a weekday Bible study, creating stronger connections between FUSH and the congregation and working on service projects with FUJI.
- Julie Harley has experienced a year of searching – for staff, on building relationships, for ways to increase stewardship and on discerning our Vision.
- Marylen Marty Gentile is continuing her journey towards ordination while she manages the Quest and church school programs.

The remainder of the Annual Meeting involved a presentation and discussion of our Vision Team's discoveries. The team's charge, process and emerging themes were shared and an invitation was extended to all to engage in the vision. Over the past year conversations were held with members of our church, with local community leaders and with other best practice churches and several themes emerged: we are known as a church that values its children and youth, diversity, independence and activism. However we may find it easy to coast on our reputation, we don't always follow through, we are sometimes confused about our denominational relationships and we often find it easier to write checks than take action.

As a result of these meetings and conversations, and through prayerful discernment God's vision for us has become clearer. It calls us to action! The three key concepts of the vision are:

- Moving from words to witness in our relationship with God
- Moving from individualism to intimate fellowship with other members of the church community
- Moving from charity to changing structures in our relationship with the world.

Group discussions focusing around these three themes were held at each table. Laurie Jolicoeur spoke to Council's support of the Vision and shared its commitment to the challenge of acting upon it. We are scared about the unknown but excited about the possibilities and will trust in God to show us the way. As a symbolic act of support, Council members and church staff signed the Vision Statement and invited members to follow.

Mark Buck closed the meeting with a prayer. We adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk