

July 8, 2024

This is a summary of the update given by Carol Wilson, Chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, at the June 9 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting. [You may view the slide presentation here.](#)

Five Goals

The Christ First Strategic Plan will be based on five goals developed and approved by Council, using input provided by the congregation at the October 1 Visioning Workshop. The goals are:

- Goal #1: Strengthen our care, support and spiritual guidance for the congregation.
- Goal #2: Increase the number of programs and events available to the community.
- Goal #3: Strengthen our impact in the marginalized community.
- Goal #4: Increase the number of active congregants.
- Goal #5: Find the best place to support the needs of the congregation and the community.

Call, Vision and Values

An important part of the Strategic Plan will be confirming our call, vision and values. [A draft version](#) was sent out to all members of the congregation prior to the June 9 SACM. We will continue to refine the call, vision and values as the strategic plan is developed over the next few months.

How the Plan Will Move Forward

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC), appointed by Council, will drive the development of the plan over the next six months. It will oversee the project management, development, communication and approval of the Strategic Plan. The SPSC will ensure that the Plan can support the financial viability of our church, considering we are in a deficit situation.

Starting in July, the SPSC will be recruiting members for work groups to develop the strategies to achieve the first four goals. Goal 5, which concerns real estate, will be led by the Real Estate Oversight Committee (REOC). Work groups will be responsible for analyzing the costs and resources needed to achieve the goals, and recommending strategies to be included in the overall Plan.

Work will get under way in the summer and ramp up in September and October. We are hoping that work groups can be finished their work at the end of October. In November, the Strategic

Plan will start coming together in preparation for approval by the congregation at a special congregational meeting in January or February 2025.

Volunteers Needed for Work Groups

Each Work Group will develop strategies to support one goal. We now have leaders for each Work Group who are eager to get started but they need a team behind them. This is your chance to get involved and have a say in how things can be done differently and sustainably in the future!

This month we will be recruiting members for the Work Groups. Take a look at each of the five goals. If there is one goal that really speaks to you, [please get in touch with the leader of that group by August 1](#) to let him or her know you want to be part of the team. REOC already has a team in place to work on Goal 5 but would be happy to receive ideas and input from the congregation. You can get the leaders' contact information from the Office if you don't have it already.

Goal #1 Work Group leaders: Andy Choles and Heather McGillis

Goal #2 Work Group leader: Victoria Keane

Goal #3 Work Group leader: Victoria Keane

Goal #4 Work Group leader: Mike Giguere

Goal #5 Work Group leader: Steve Shaver (leading REOC)

Timelines

These are the tentative timelines from the SPSC:

| Timing | Activity |
|-----------------------|--|
| July-August | Recruitment of members for Work Groups, work gets underway |
| September-October | Work Groups develop strategies, consult with congregation and others |
| November | Steering Committee starts compiling Strategic Plan |
| December | Council approval of Strategic Plan |
| January-February 2025 | Strategic Plan goes to congregation for approval at a special congregational meeting |

Watch for more updates on the Strategic Plan over the summer. If you have any questions about the Strategic Plan please get in touch with Carol Wilson.