

## **Vision Statements for Acton Congregational Church**

May 6, 2007

The following vision statements are “outcomes” or descriptions of a destination, i.e. where we believe God is calling Acton Congregational Church to be 3 to 4 years from now. They are not intended to describe the way we are today, nor are they to be a reflection or criticism on where we are now. Comments on programs are not included, on the basis that they describe how we will get to our desired destination, and not what the destination is. The vision statements form a guide as to where we believe God is calling us to go, and will help us make the appropriate decisions to get there.

The statements are derived from the information gained when individuals answered the Appreciative Inquiry questions during the in-home coffees. Individual thoughts and comments that were very similar have been combined into an overarching statement. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Ed White facilitated a workshop where many members of the congregation (all were invited) modified the statements and prioritized them to reflect the most important visions for us. Over 3 weeks in March and April, the 8 vision statements from the Workshop were displayed in Hartman Hall, where over 100 members of the congregation provided their input as to the 3 most important statements.

The Vision Statements adopted at the Roll Call Congregational Meeting held May 6, 2007 are as follows:

1. Our church has God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit at the center; we hear and teach the word of God in the Scriptures. All will discover that the Christian life is a shared journey of discipleship, and not just a membership in an organization called a congregation. While we may not all take the same path, we will experience that as we worship, learn and work together, God transforms us, such that we grow emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually as followers of Jesus.
2. As ministers for Christ, we connect our faith with life in the workplace, home, community and world. Witnessing to the external community, our church engages with the primary social issues of today’s world. We seek social justice, and work against discrimination. Our church has frequent opportunities to discuss and act on such challenges. Members participate in civic efforts to improve the quality of life in our community, and are encouraged to do so by our church.
3. Our members love this church. Our church is encouraging, supporting, loving and caring of one another. It generates lots of vitality, and has a strong, positive and optimistic attitude. Members are eager to be involved, and the congregation appreciates the Christian work of every participant, whether it is high-profile or behind-the-scenes.

4. Believing in the priesthood of all believers, the clergy and lay leadership engage and invite the members to participate in the work and ministry of the church. With the help of the Holy Spirit, members discover their God-given spiritual gifts and develop those gifts to exercise in ministry. The clergy and lay leadership empower and equip members to serve Christ, supporting them on the basis of their gifts and passions and encouraging them in a warm and caring relationship with open communication. The clergy welcomes this personal relationship.