

Your Board of Trustees formed the Vision 2025 work group to identify those things necessary for MVUUF to thrive and be effective in living its mission in this new age.

MVUUF has four assets that can be used to achieve its mission now and in the future.

They are: 1) our membership, 2) our programs & services, 3) our facility, and 4) our rental property. In our review of these assets, we became aware of the important need to be more effective in telling the story of who and what we are to ourselves, and to the larger community. Without an effective communication plan of who and what we are, and what it means to you, our future will be diminished. The work group learned, as we all have, that the world has changed, and we cannot see the future by looking in a rear-view mirror. Vision 2025 spoke with the membership with an in-person meeting, a zoom meeting, and an on-line survey and found that your desires matched national research outcomes. You want a connection, a sense of community, and an actual experience in our mission. These are not new desires but old ones that have been true for years. However, to do that today and tomorrow, churches will need to embrace online technology and stay agile.

- The foundation for a congregation effectively responding to the changes in their communities is a planned and coordinated communication plan to tell their story. We need to be more effective in telling our story, our mission, and how we do it.
- Being agile means looking at our assets to see what is working, what is not as effective, how we might use our assets in new ways, and managing those efforts so that they reinforce each other to create an experience greater than its parts. Being agile also means being disciplined in that pursuit so that we can determine what is the best way to use our resources.
- Next, we believe the Fellowship would benefit from a listing of our programs and services, and a review of them so that we understand their role in our mission and identify their importance to our mission so that we can recommit to them in an agile way.
- Explore and pilot new ways we can reach out to our members, youth, and the larger community through partnering with other like-minded church groups or community organizations with whom we can live our values.
- Programming for youth such as OWL and other programming and events builds significant relationships within our congregation.
- The congregation should explore ways to defray the cost of some programs, services, or events used by participants or those in attendance.

Our response to changes at MVUUF and in the larger community will result in our fellowship growing as a community, our growth as individuals, our growth as providers and supporters of liberal ideals, and values to ourselves, our children, and our larger community.

Look for more details shared February 1 and feedback forums scheduled for Sunday 2/19 after service and Tuesday 2/28 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.