

**Vision 2032 – Storm Lake - Northwest District
(November 17, 2019)**

Concerns

Loss of members
Aging members
Financial problems
Shared pastors spread thin
Not meeting youth needs on a consistent basis
Fear of politics causing division
Want to see the future now!
Fear that we can't manage the future
Give diversity a positive voice, but it isn't happening.
Lack of communication about differences.
Decrease in active membership.
Change in societal priorities.
Finances are decreasing
Income is decreasing
How will change in local church structure work
Acceptance of diversity
Focus on ministries, not on finances
Small churches splitting
Attendance down at church
Loss of members
Loss of finances
Loss of younger worshippers
Are we biblically based?
Are we doing God's will?
Focus on God versus culture
Loss of building
Loss of identity
Church has become a place for insiders
Drain of leadership
Keeping our youth
Number of members decreasing
Lack of oversight of pastors
Less supervision
Average age increasing
Age of pastors increasing
Finance is becoming a priority
Building maintenance
Lack of pastors
Our numbers

Priorities - sports reign
What will excite our youth?
Aging population
Declining population and attendance
Alienation of members
Lose-lose situation LGBTQIA+

- “Bad guy=those not supporting LGBTQIA+”

Financial
Decreasing church size and membership
Finances
Young people not being involved
Not enough missions
Need to be more welcoming
Decline in attendance
aging congregation - lack of youth participation
Sunday school
Finances
Fear of losing church
Will of society is guiding the church
2032? What about 2020?
Teaching Salvation first

- Give them Jesus
- More than social gospel
- What is our focus?

Excitements

Togetherness - those who are left are dedicated
Volunteers do a lot
Can make a difference in community:

- Community garden
- Kids shopping spree
- Helping newcomers to community
- Food pantry for immigrants and others
- Garage sales

Youth participation
Openness to youth voices
God never abandons God's people, there is hope
Groups caring about the environment
Grassroots – potential for relationship and leadership
Potential for extended mission to local community
Potential for clarity of local church vision
Presence of the Holy Spirit in the church community
Increase in building used for community activities

Redefine what mission looks like
United Methodism
Small groups
Keeping your focus on God
Mission
Small groups/Bible studies
Community partnerships
Community missions
God is on our side
Ecumenical minded
Non-political church
Prayer centered
Less paperwork
Working with other churches
Use of technology to educate, not entertain
Meeting people where they are
People love the church enough to care
Youth ministry
God does good work in the wilderness
We have facilities
Forward looking Bishop
Facing the “elephant in the room”
Strong mission emphasis
God is everywhere
Been through crisis before and survived
More youth involvement
Including more laity to get things done
God is love
Young families getting involved
Missions inside and outside our community
Meals – being together
Use of facilities, keeping facilities clean and usable
God is with us. Are we the remnant?
Youth that are here are serious about their faith
Use will come if provided guidance and space
Have people who are dedicated
The skills and gifts are here if we so desire

What we could do if we had a \$6 to \$8 million budget
Helping people raise money, stewardship education
Combine churches
Utilizing the congregation
Bringing in other churches and utilizing the facility

More member involvement through volunteering
 More out reach for members
 Promote participation to youth and young adults
 More upkeep on church owned properties
 Reevaluate priorities
 More effective use of technology
 Connect pastoral salaries with apportionments paid
 Rent out space at the conference center
 Celebrate the kingdom – made possible by working together
 Invest in communication

- Are we better since we allow dollars to suggest dropping hardcopy news?

 Finding a way to change attitudes from scarcity to abundance
 Finding ways to engage folks in realities
 Cut administrative costs: upper Midwest conference, not just Iowa
 Standardized Sunday school curriculums
 More use of technology instead of travel
 We should not make an island of our traditions
 Build from the ground up, not top down
 Could volunteers be used at the conference instead of page staff, to a certain extent?
 Funding of clergy retirement – how does it fit in?

- How does possible split affect this?

 Churches that are growing (evangelicals) seem to have very little hierarchy
 Learn from partnering large and small churches (like Church of the Resurrection)
 Use circuit rider concept
 Continue to streamline staff
 More effective alignment of congregations
 Efficient leadership
 Efficient use of technology for communication, but needs to be publicized so all know
 Video conferencing
 Are there paid positions that could be filled by volunteers?
 Hire professionals to find ways to be more efficient
 Conference camp director should be site director at a Okoboji
 Cut staff further
 Conference positions also serving local churches
 Better utilization of buildings or better solutions for closing or selling
 Get SPRC report quarterly from all churches (supervision of staff and pastor)
 Make sure Safe Sanctuary standards are met and checked/updated regularly
 Carpooling – increase efficiency of church dollars (members and pastors attend together)
 Recognize volunteers/develop system
 Strengthening the power of prayer – congregationally
 Increase volunteers to church camps

Increase scholarships to church camps
Combine District
Reduce staff
Extend camp opportunities
Expand lay leadership
Restructure special offerings
Promote mission opportunities
Build membership