



UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Priorities for University Congregational United Church of Christ, 2004-2009

Our commitment: Our priorities serve our desire and struggle to commit ourselves to ministries that unapologetically make real the radical message of Jesus, and help equip us to live out his teachings.

Sunday morning worship and education for all ages: Because worship **and** education nurture Christian discipleship, make both intergenerational worship and Christian education for all ages central to our time together on Sunday mornings. Change our current Sunday morning schedule to offer one sanctuary service, a chapel service and an education hour for all.

Christian education: Develop a Christian education program that provides a sequential and age-appropriate curriculum with recognized learning objectives for children and youth, and a challenging, engaging curriculum for adults along the entire spectrum of knowledge, faith, and discipleship. Honor the full range of learning style by including opportunities in the creative arts—music, dance, drama and visual arts—for all ages and skill levels.

Deepening commitment to membership: Foster a greater commitment to living into our covenant by defining expectations of membership and encouraging members to move along a path of deepening engagement. Expectations include participating in worship and education, pledging, involvement in a small group, hands-on service, and daily spiritual practices that focus our lives on Christ

Family-friendly church: Be a family-friendly church where all members are encouraged and given opportunities to involve themselves in the lives of children and youth, and programs are designed so that parents, children, youth, adults and elders are welcomed and encouraged in all areas of church life.

Caring for our community: Strengthen and deepen our life together—in trials of the spirit and in times of joy—by creating a community where all are recognized as beloved children of God, and pastoral care by both laity and clergy is extended wherever it is needed.

Stewardship: Provide an ongoing program of stewardship development that inspires people to tie their spiritual growth with their desire to share their gifts with others, informs them of how their gifts are used, and enables us to bring our resources and program commitments into sustainable balance.

Diversity: Recognize that **all** people have much to teach each other about God's love, and strive to become a place of welcome, accessibility and reconciliation for all, including, for example, those marginalized by society, people of color, and people with disabilities. Respect and foster diversity, and honor believers, seekers and doubters.

Evangelism: Communicate more broadly and intentionally who we are as a church community and what we have to offer the world and each other, by developing individual skills and comfort with evangelism, and by building awareness of our calling and message throughout the Puget Sound area.

Team ministry: Strengthen, optimize and celebrate the clergy team model, through collaboration with the congregation to explore the ramifications of team ministry, address its challenges, and educate members about it.

New Cornerstones: Complete the renovation of our church building as envisioned and called for by our “Strengthening our Foundations” campaign.

Planning: Complete the planning process we have begun by creating an implementation team to assist with carrying out our priorities and evaluating progress, and by developing formal mission and vision statements through which we can better communicate our calling as a Christian community.

Adopted by vote of the congregation, June 13, 2004