



Action Plan 2011-2016
for First Christian Church Baltimore
Approved by Church Board August 7, 2011
Developed by participants in the
"Claiming God's Vision" Planning Meetings, Spring 2011

Motto: *Welcome to the Table*

Statement of Calling: *Committed to the unity of God's people at Christ's Table,
through the Word of God,
we strive to—
enable service,
foster fellowship, and
encourage education
so that we may grow in God's love.*

Program for Fulfillment of Calling—The Four Legs of the Table:
Worship God, Enable Service, Foster Fellowship, Encourage Education

Worship God—Recommended Program Goals:

1. Regularly check to make sure that we are visitor-friendly. Is our service easy to follow? Do we have someone to greet and welcome visitors? Are the spaces in the church clearly labeled?
2. Research and consider offering Taizé services once a month, changing to weekly services during Lent and Advent.
3. Offer outdoor worship services at times – perhaps on the portico or on the embankment. This year schedule a Blessing of the Pets in October,
4. Coordinate special music with the worship themes. Explore new types of music while also enjoying familiar hymns.
5. Select Sundays (perhaps 5th Sundays?) to go to other congregations to experience their worship. Arrange for a Seder service with Beit Tikvah.

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6. Build on the shared worship services that we already have. This year we are currently planning to add Sept. 11, Christmas Day and New Year's Day as joint worship services in addition to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve.

Enable Service—Recommended Program Goals:

1. Sponsor fundraisers for House of Ruth (with speakers from the House of Ruth) or in honor of the leaders of House of Ruth. "Baby Shower" for House of Ruth.
2. Find more events to participate in with the House of Ruth (e.g. adopt a family at Christmas).
3. Participate in the service projects of the other congregations in our building, which increases our interfaith / ecumenical goal of unity of God's people.
4. Participate in the 4 planned service projects of the Interfaith Communities of Roland Park (ICRP), which will be initiated at the Memorial Day picnic held here at First Christian.
5. Set up a "5th Saturday Parent's Day Out" program, maybe from 9-2, that would be like a Vacation Bible School with Bible Study, games, arts and crafts, music, and worship. Maybe have this in the evening, 5-9 with light dinner and a movie???
6. Lectures for the community – sponsor a series dealing with life issues from a faith perspective (like Stress and Spirituality; Illness, Death, and Faith; Faithful Reform in Health Care; Aging and Believing; Living faithfully in a global world, etc.) Another suggestion: Being a Christian to other religions – how to have conversations with people of other faiths.
7. Develop a Faith and School partnership via Greater Homewood Community Corporation with Abbottston Elementary School, 1300 Gorsuch Avenue, Baltimore, near Baltimore City College and Stadium Middle School.

Foster Fellowship—Recommended Program Goals:

1. Retreat times – this year we have the September retreat scheduled. We could also try for a one-day trip to Bon Secours. What else can we do?
2. Group events – trips to theater productions, sports events, restaurants.
3. Potluck dinners – perhaps with speakers (then it works with Education goals, too); these could also be game nights – like Bible Trivia.
4. Music – concerts (perhaps outside?), jam sessions.
5. Photos – post photos of members in the church directory and visitors on a Fellowship Wall.
6. Shirts – provide FCCB polo shirts to wear while going out as a group for fellowship or service so that we are identified as a faith community.

Encourage Education—Recommended Program Goals:

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1. Book studies – our own (like Who Stole My Church) or joint offerings (like Constantine’s Sword along with Beit Tikvah; Making Sense of Scripture with the other Christian congregations and the community).
2. History of the Disciples.
3. Baptism / Confirmation class (new and renewal).
4. Bible Study.
5. Sunday School – for children and adults.
6. Website as an educational tool – virtual church – teach on the website, figure out ways to drive members to the website.
7. Participate in the World Religions lectures with ICRP.