

# APEX VISION REPORT

## FULL REPORT

---



We envision Apex United Methodist Church living into its membership vows not just individually, but collectively, in the following ways:

## PRAYERS

Over the next 3 to 5 years, we envision AUMC as a congregation steeped in prayer where our congregants practice both personal and collective prayer and are knowledgeable in a variety of prayer practices. Prayer occurs whenever we gather as the Body of Christ.



Suggestions for ways to live into this vision -

- Develop a weekly prayer that is connected to the sermon and published across all communications and used in multiple ministry settings.
- Increase congregational awareness of our intercessory prayer team, prayer walkers, and prayer labyrinth.
- Intentionally offer opportunities for those new to prayer practices.
- Offer retreats in a variety of prayer practices.

## NEXT STEPS

Program Staff & the Prayer Team will take the lead on living into this vision.

---

# PRESENCE

Over the next 3 to 5 years, we envision AUMC as a church that is full of vibrancy, diversity, and life - reflecting the presence of God in this world through our presence in worship and active participation in mission and ministries where average worship attendance (in-person and on-line) is a healthy 700 plus a week. We see worship attendees including those of all ages and stages - with increased numbers of youth (6th to 12th grade) and young adults (20s and 30s). The congregation is noticeably more diverse than in previous years, with us monitoring demographics and encouraging racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity. Congregants are actively engaged in at least one ministry area in addition to worship.

---



Suggestions for ways to live into this vision -

- Investigate ways to increase worship attendance - including an additional worship hour or Sunday School hour.
- Develop a study committee on promoting diversity. Task the study committee with making suggestions for ways to have a more diverse witness.
- Create a group to study our on-line presence - who attends on-line? What are their reasons for attending on-line? What ways can we improve our on-line worship experience? etc.
- Implement a comprehensive hospitality approach - from first-time visitors through membership. Support programs that help integrate everyone into the life of the church, for example shepherds programs and/or social gatherings.

## NEXT STEPS

Worship Teams, Program Staff, Nominations, and Church Council will take the lead on living into this vision.

---

## GIFTS

Over the next 3 to 5 years, we envision AUMC as a financially stable church. We see adequate resources allocated to meet the needs of our growing congregation. We talk about stewardship frequently and encourage a spirit of generosity. We envision a balanced budget, a right-sized staff, adequate resources to maintain our campus facilities, and our debt is down to manageable monthly payments (\$15k/month or less).



Suggestions for ways to live into this vision -

- Sell House of Tools and apply the profit toward the debt and evaluate the future viability of selling or keeping the House of Hope.
- Continue to incrementally reduce missional giving to Fiesta.
- Establish a trustee restricted fund of at least \$100k to address large item maintenance emergencies (HVACs, elevators, etc.).
- Offer spiritual gifts survey and encourage congregants to engage their spiritual gifts in church life.
- Create a narrative budget that illustrates how our financial resources are used to support church ministries.

## NEXT STEPS

Trustee Committee, Finance Committee, & Church Council will take the lead on living into this vision.

---

## SERVICE

Over the next 3 to 5 years, we envision AUMC as a mission-minded congregation where we support local, national, and international missions, including mission opportunities for all ages and stages. We see increased

participation in hands-on, missional activities. We will share an annual report on our financial giving toward missions specifically.

---



Suggestions for ways to live into this vision -

- Redefine purpose and structure of the missions committee.
- Develop a visual - a dedicated wall that shows mission opportunities for every age and stage, including intergenerational missions.
- Increase congregational awareness of missions through a YES (Youth Engaged in Service) type weekend for adults and families.

## »» NEXT STEPS

Mission Team & Church Council will take the lead on living into this vision.

---

## »» WITNESS

Over the next 3 to 5 years, we envision AUMC as a congregation deeply in love with Jesus and eager to share that love with others. We will show this love through our commitment to our church, community, and the wider world.

---



Suggestions for ways to live into this vision -

- Connect to the wider community through enhancing our relationships with the Town of Apex, local non-profits, and other community faith organizations.
- Develop GIFT Groups-to-Go - a way that congregants can take the GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) model and, partnering with at least one other, start their own GIFT group among neighbors, friends, and others who share similar interests.

- Engage in practices of storytelling - from the pulpit to small groups, we work on developing our faith stories and ways to share those stories with others.
- Develop out-of-the-box, unique discipleship opportunities - similar to the summer vineyard Bible Study - opportunities that reach new people in new places.

## NEXT STEPS

Program Staff & Church Council will take the lead on living into this vision.

### Members of the Vision Team

- Anne Harrison
- Brent Sigmon
- Gordon Jendrasiak
- Jackson Orr
- Laura Kiper
- MaryBeth Buie
- Shirley Spedding
- Rick Kupselaitis
- Pastor Laura Katherine Stern

Click here for a complete list of church leadership.

(LINK: <https://apexumc.org/about-us/lay-leadership/>)

\* This report began with the Vision Team and then was reviewed by staff and administrative committees. The report reflects their collective input.