

FAQ ON PROPOSED STATEMENT OF VALUES, VISION, AND MISSION

What is the Proposed Statement of Values, Vision, and Mission of Hancock Church?

The statement is the culmination of the hundreds of conversations we held in the fall of 2018, in small groups and in other ways, about the future of Hancock Church. What are the values that animate us? What is our vision for what Hancock will be? What is our mission, what are we called to do? Articulation of these basic tenets of our community is the next step as we envision our future and the path to take us there. Once adopted, we will use the statement to guide what we do next year, and the year after, and for years to come.

Who wrote it?

There are nine members of the Vision Team, which was introduced and consecrated in morning worship in November: Dan Belin, Carol Bukys, Barbara Callaghan, John Campbell, Ed Cox, Sarah Keeping, Leanne Rodd, Paul Shupe, and Charlie Wyman.

Where did the ideas expressed here come from?

They came from you, captured by the small group leaders and others, and translated into brief statements of values, vision, and mission as faithfully as we could manage. The small group leaders assembled for an all-day Vision Summit on December 1, during which everyone shared the ideas, hopes, and dreams discussed during their small group meetings, guided by our Agile Church consultant, Coy James. The Vision Team took the results of that day and spent another day with Coy drafting an initial statement, then asked for early feedback from Standing Committee and the Hancock Next Steering Committee, and met again to finalize this draft for consideration by the congregation.

The statement focuses on the “why” of Hancock Church, not the “how” or the “what.” Why do we gather together at Hancock? Why does, and should, Hancock exist? For a lighthearted, perceptive look at the difference between “why” and “what”, watch a 3-minute YouTube video by comedian Michael Jr., “[Know Your Why.](#)”

What happens next?

During January the Hancock community is asked to read, reflect on, and pray on the draft statement. As a whole, does it reflect why we worship and serve God together at Hancock Church? **There will be three feedback sessions, after the morning service on January 13, 20, and 27, in the Pearson Room, where members are invited to share their thoughts.** After that, the Vision Team will reconvene, discuss all the feedback, and weigh whether and how to amend the statement. The final draft will be shared on Feb. 3, and a meeting held after the morning service to explain its final form, and how and why it was amended. If we're ready, a congregational meeting will be asked on Feb. 10 to adopt the statement.

Once it's adopted, what happens then?

If the congregation adopts the statement, then this winter and spring we will begin to look at many aspects of church life and ask the questions: What do we need to do to implement our mission and achieve our vision? Is there anything we need to change to align our activities with this statement of our path forward? Our ministers and moderators will ask everyone to contribute, led by teams of people focusing on specific areas of church life. The hope is that a more detailed plan for our future will emerge by the time of the annual meeting in early June, with some specific, initial ideas to act on.

Are there any changes happening sooner?

Yes, the church has already begun to implement ideas that clearly make sense. The best example is the revamping of the "giving" portion of our website, offering many more options for giving, including the ability to make regular, recurring gifts in support of Hancock. Our ministers, moderators, and Standing Committee continue to evaluate new ideas and will move forward when opportunities arise.

What should I do now? or What is being asked of me?

Read through the proposed vision and mission statement with an open mind and prayerful heart. Consider your Small Group's discussion and your reflections of the Hancock Next process in the fall as you offer any feedback. If you wish to share any thoughts on the statement, participate in a feedback session after morning worship in January, or use the online form. Ask yourself: does the vision and mission reflect why we worship and serve God together at Hancock?