



NORTH SHORE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Vision For our Future
2008 Long Range Plan

*“What does the Lord require of you?
To seek justice, to love kindness and
to walk humbly before your God”*

- Micah 6:8

A VISION OF OUR PURPOSE

North Shore Presbyterian Church is called by the grace of God to be a Covenant Family that nurtures faith in Christ and a commitment to serve in Christ's name.

"Covenant" describes how God relates to us and how we seek to relate to God.

"Family" describes how we seek to welcome and accept everyone regardless of differences in gender, race, or nationality as well as in economic or social position, political views, or sexual orientation.

With our resources and faith we strive to:

- **Worship** the living God
- **Welcome and care** for friends and strangers in Christian love
- **Grow** in faith through educating ourselves and others in an ever-changing world
- **Minister** beyond ourselves to those with spiritual and physical needs
- **Steward** wisely God's gifts

A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

The vision for our future is divided into five sections including worship, welcome and care, grow, minister, and steward. The vision celebrates what God has given us as well as what we seek to accomplish with God's help by the year 2012.

Worship the living God

We Celebrate:

- Being in the presence of God through joyful and reverent intergenerational worship
- Programming for children that teaches God's word and the meaning of worship and sacraments
- Offering music and arts programs including the Choral Scholars, children's choirs, and the narthex art gallery
- Preaching that connects us with God's word and Christ's model for living
- Praying as a congregation (Prayers of the People) and as individuals for ourselves and others
- Enjoying memorable seasonal worship opportunities including Advent and Lenten programs as well as summer patio worship
- Marking the milestones of Christian faith development of our covenant family through recognition of 50+ year members, Third Grade Bible recipients, the Rite-13 Celebration, and Baccalaureate for senior youth

We Seek:

- To expand worship opportunities outside of Sunday mornings for all ages
- To offer small group adult study and spiritually uplifting worship
- To create worship opportunities that draw and nurture a diverse congregation by varying worship and music styles
- To prepare youth spiritually for and engage them actively in worship through liturgy, prayer leadership, and/or artistic endeavors

Welcome and care for friends and strangers in Christian love

We Celebrate:

- Welcoming visitors and new members through Greeters, Visitor Contacts, New Member Conversations (orientation), the Shepherd program (mentoring new members), and community events
- Supporting members through the prayer, pastoral care, and retreats
- Engaging shut-ins through at-home communion, flowers, greeting cards, and “NSPC Live” DVDs of our services
- Offering fellowship among members and visitors through the café before and after worship
- Collecting and donating resources for those in need including Soup-er Bowl Sunday, regular food donations and seasonal toy and clothing donations
- Involving youth in outreach in the greater Milwaukee area
- Offering intergenerational gatherings such as breakfasts, picnics, and open houses

We Strive:

- To become more visible in local community events
- To strengthen women’s programming through the Presbyterian Church, interdenominational, ecumenical, and interfaith ventures
- To encourage more congregational participation to support shut-ins
- To provide more opportunities for fellowship within and outside of church to encourage faith and sharing among adults and seniors
- To create more youth fellowship and outreach opportunities

GROW in faith through educating others and ourselves in an ever-changing world

We Celebrate:

- Offering an active Sunday School Program for ages nursery through Grade 12 including Young Children in Worship and Journey to Adulthood curricula
- Providing an innovative and changing Adult Education Program focusing on learning opportunities in theology/literature, current events, and, Bible study
- Preaching that enhances our understanding of God's word and Christ's model for living
- Supporting our educational efforts through resources including children's bulletins and worship kits, our church library, outside speakers, and dedicated staff and members
- Mentoring our youth in the confirmation program with adult covenant partners
- Enrolling in institutions encouraging Christian faith and theological exploration

We Seek:

- To enhance intergenerational educational opportunities
- To strengthen a common faith language and theological foundation
- To strengthen connections between educational programs and worship
- To offer educational programs that attract both visitors and members
- To provide educational outings including family retreats, opportunities to explore other faiths, and denominational camps and conferences
- To increase Sunday School teacher participation and leadership as well as training
- To support youth programming through the exploration of staffing for youth ministry

Minister beyond ourselves to those with spiritual and physical needs

We Celebrate:

- Engaging actively in mission through work trips, peace initiatives locally and abroad, and social issues
- Sharing resources through the Annual Mission Grants Program whose recipients include the Peace Learning Center, Shoreline Interfaith, Interchange Food Pantry, and Allied Churches
- Supporting the four Special Offerings of the PC(USA) addressing local, national, and international humanitarian needs
- Cooperating in interfaith outreach including creating baby boxes with Congregation Shalom, supporting Crop Walk, and volunteering at the Interfaith Food Pantry, The Gathering, and Habitat for Humanity
- Providing meeting space for numerous non-profit community organizations and support groups
- Connecting with University of Wisconsin Milwaukee students, faculty, and staff by providing lunches at the UWM Christian Center

We Seek:

- To offer more mission-based youth programs
- To expand our relationship with the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM)
- To provide more and more frequent mission work trips
- To increase congregational involvement in local mission opportunities and social justice issues including active involvement as a member organization of Common Ground
- To develop a relationship with another faith community locally and abroad

Steward wisely God's gifts

We Celebrate:

- Giving of time and talents by staff, members, and youth
- Continuing successful annual stewardship campaigns
- Communicating with our covenant family and visitors through the Chimes newsletter, church bulletin, various bulletin boards and Minutes for Mission during worship
- Funding our successful capital campaign to provide new roofing, a new kitchen, and a new security system
- Appreciating our Legacy Fund to help support long-term financial sustainability
- Engaging in environmental awareness, study and dialog concerning God's creation through the Eco-Focus Group
- Continuing improvements to our facilities and grounds to support sustainable energy use

We Seek:

- To expand our stewardship campaign to identify members' time and talent availability and commitment
- To commit 10% of the annual operating budget to mission work
- To interpret and finance an ongoing facility maintenance plan which expands our efforts to reduce our demands on the environment
- To enhance internal and external communications and community presence and outreach through improved signage, website, and media relations
- To renew and expand resources and effort to improve church growth
- To encourage more members and youth to participate in church opportunities and programs (teaching, committees, small groups, etc.)