

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH—OAK PARK, IL STRATEGIC PLAN -- ADOPTED JANUARY 2008

Embracing all, to become one with Christ

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

Our Mission:

Grace Church seeks to bring God's love and Christ's teaching to all people, to become a passionately involved, intentional Christian community, to support the spiritual journey of each person, and to work toward reconciliation, peace, and justice in our world.

Our Core Values:

- ❖ Reach out to support our neighbors locally and worldwide as we seek to obey God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- ❖ Encourage and support spiritual growth in all people while respecting that each person is at a different point in his or her spiritual journey.
- ❖ Work to be ever more present to and caring for each member of the Grace community and to be fully welcoming to all who enter Grace's doors.

Our Core Ministry Areas:



	<p>Worship</p>
<p><i>Our spirits burn more brightly when we worship in community.</i></p> <p><i>We hold up the liturgical experience as one of abundant and joyful giving of praise to God.</i></p> <p><i>“Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness; Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.”</i></p> <p><i>Venite, Psalm 96:9</i></p>	<p>Vision:</p> <p>Grace recognizes that individuals come from diverse backgrounds and are comfortable with various worship styles, but that all seek to be spiritually enriched and inspired to lead better lives. Grace seeks a worship program that renews, challenges, strengthens, and sends us into the world to live out our Baptismal Covenant.</p> <p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establish a Liturgy and Music Committee comprised of members who will consult with the Rector and Music Director. The committee will include others on a seasonal basis. (Winter 2008.) ❖ Explore changes to the Sunday morning schedule that would allow time for formation between services. (Introduce in fall 2008.) ❖ Restructure Sunday morning services to add a contemporary service that would appeal to those who have not been active in a church before and continue a service that maintains the integrity of the current 10 a.m. service. (Fall 2008.) ❖ Develop a worship experience on Sunday late afternoon or evening (or another weekend night) that would reach out to spiritual seekers. (The Art and Soul Café from the Cathedral in St. Louis is a potential model.) ❖ Develop a service (weekly or more frequently) such as evensong, Taizé, contemplative prayer or centering prayer. (Introduce in Lent 2008.) <p>Desired Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Average attendance at Sunday morning services of 175 by year end 2008, of 200+ by 2009, and continued growth in following years. ❖ Increased participation in all worship programs. ❖ Members and all who attend worship feeling renewed, challenged, strengthened, and empowered to be sent into the world.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Growth and Christian Formation</p>
<p><i>Formation at Grace Church is a lifelong way of learning about the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition, developing our spirituality, and supporting our efforts to love and serve our neighbors.</i></p> <p><i>"...And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves...."</i> <i>2 Corinthians 5: 15.</i></p>	<p>Vision:</p> <p>Grace seeks to support the development of our Christian faith and spirituality based on the Anglican tradition and to build an intentional faith community of persons of all backgrounds.</p> <p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establish an Adult Formation Committee that will work with the Rector and Deacon to plan and organize programs. ❖ Expand adult formation programs to provide instruction, dialogue, and open exploration to deepen our understanding of God’s call to us. The liturgical calendar may be an organizing frame. Keep most programs relatively short (4-6 weeks) and scheduled for different days and times so that everyone may participate. ❖ Offer adult formation on Sunday morning, such as Bible study, Sermon or Lectionary reflections, or series on topics such as “Explorations of Faith.” ❖ Develop an inquirers program for those new to Grace and offer it several times each year. ❖ Support the growth of an active prayer life as well as other aspects of Christian spirituality. ❖ Include a small chapel space in our facility that is accessible to everyone. ❖ Hire a part-time Director of Christian Formation who will work with programs for all age groups. Initially the position will emphasize developing programs for middle and high school age students and young adults and support the program for children. ❖ Develop a Children and Youth Formation Team that will consist of parents and other leaders. ❖ Continue to support the expansion of all children and youth formation programs. <p>Desired Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All members of the Grace community involved in formation programs. ❖ Formation programs that attract spiritual seekers to Grace. ❖ Formation programs that incorporate newcomers into the Grace community.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Grace Community</h2>
<p><i>When we assume a mutual responsibility for each other, we are in sacred covenant with one another.</i></p> <p><i>“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”</i> <i>Romans 12:4-5</i></p>	<p>Vision:</p> <p>As a response to God’s unbounded love for us, members of Grace reach out to know and care for each other, creating a community built on fellowship, responsibility, and support.</p> <p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Expand fellowship opportunities that build community and serve various age-groups, e.g., Ministry of Fun events, Foyer Groups, and small group ministries. ❖ Refine the Vestry Shepherding program so that it develops strong relationships. ❖ Expand training opportunities for Stephen Ministers and Bishop Anderson House visitation training. (2009) ❖ Develop a new Home Ministry program that will assist members in a time of need with the practical tasks of life. (2009) <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A plan for growing and deepening the Grace community by summer 2008. ❖ Increased participation with Grace community life by both long time and new members. ❖ New service, fellowship, and formation programs for existing and new members.
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Congregational Renewal</h2>
<p><i>Grace is renewed as newcomers join the community, bringing insights, experiences, and energy. The more members and the greater their level of participation, the more Grace fulfills its mission.</i></p>	<p>Vision:</p> <p>Grace seeks to expand and strengthen the community by welcoming spiritual seekers in our area and offering wholehearted hospitality that embraces new talents and experiences. A cycle of continual congregational renewal is created as we send forth those who depart to follow in God's way and welcome newcomers into the community.</p> <p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establish a task force to examine means of expanding and enhancing the Grace community. Read, attend conferences, visit other congregations, and discuss ideas leading to recommendations for Grace leadership. Examine population groups that Grace could reach out to. (2008) ❖ Form a Welcoming Committee that will have responsibilities for current members as well as those who have yet to enter Grace’s doors. ❖ Launch programs to welcome and incorporate individuals into Grace. (Winter 2008)

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	<p>Resource Development</p>
<p><i>Build a foundation of strength to enable Grace to thrive; be a steward of all of our gifts and resources.</i></p> <p><i>“...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.</i></p>	<p>Vision:</p> <p>Support the ministries of Grace Church through judicious use of the time and talents of the staff and laity, maintenance of our material assets especially our beautiful church structure, careful management of our funds, and implementation of organizational structures that are supportive of new programs.</p> <p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Develop a stewardship program focused on generosity of spirit and thankfulness for our abundance. Strive to engage the time and talents of all members. (2008) ❖ Support and further develop the Mutual Ministry process. ❖ Establish a communications work group to assist with information flow within Grace and to the wider community. ❖ Develop a planned giving program. (2008) ❖ Develop the rectory library as a place for prayer, meditation, and formation activities. (Winter 2008.) ❖ Consider building a platform that can be used for Eucharists and other events in the crossing. The platform would be one that can be removed to support flexibility in the worship space. ❖ Explore using the rectory first floor for formation and community-building programs. ❖ Expand premises use rentals. ❖ Explore reconfiguring property support services (e.g., cleaning, landscaping, and snow removal contracts) into a sexton position to provide greater management, flexibility, and oversight for events. ❖ Establish a Property Development Committee to evaluate facilities alternatives for their functional usefulness and expense (by summer 2008):

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

- ◆ Maintain and repair current facilities
- ◆ Redesign, renovate and possibly expand current facilities
- ◆ Build a new Parish Hall
- ❖ Recommend to the Vestry guidelines for the use of the interest income from the proceeds of the property sale as follows:
 - ◆ Outreach (10%)
 - ◆ Building maintenance and repair
 - ◆ New construction or renovation
 - ◆ Endowments

Desired Outcomes:

- ❖ Expanded pledging and time committed to Grace by parishioners.
- ❖ Facilities plan adopted by Vestry by fall of 2008.
- ❖ Increased use of Grace Church space and increased income from use.
- ❖ Staff and members will continue to gain a sense of Mutual Ministry.

Grace Strategic Planning Committee:

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| Shawn Schreiner, Rector | Dave Radford |
| Donna Anderson, Co-chair | Bob Rock |
| Charles Wells, Co-chair | Mary Summerfield |
| Lascelles Anderson | Nancy Teclaw |
| Silvano Brugioni | Evelyn Way |
| Kimberly McCord | Charles Whitcomb |