

## **Long Range Planning Committee Charge**

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is established to facilitate the process of reexamining our church's mission and developing a strategic plan to guide us as we work to carry out that mission over the next ten to fifteen years and beyond.

The LRPC will ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, the long-range planning process:

1. Recognizes and builds upon our existing covenant, mission statement, and the prior Long Range Plan presented to the congregation in 2001;
2. Maximizes input and involvement of all adult and youth members of the congregation;
3. Incorporates the knowledge and experience of the lay leadership, the staff, and our minister(s);
4. Is transparent and open to the congregation;
5. Is conducted according to established goals and timelines; and
6. Operates efficiently and respects the limited time and resources of volunteers, staff, and members of the congregation.

The long-range planning process will be divided into three phases.

The goal of the first phase will be to examine and develop answers to the following questions:

1. What is our mission now and into the future?
2. In what ways are we successfully carrying out that mission?
3. What parts of our mission have yet to be realized, or could be more fully lived out?

The goal of the second phase will be to develop a long-range strategic plan, addressing the following questions:

1. To the extent that we are succeeding in our mission, how do we lay a foundation to ensure that our successes are sustained in the long-term?
2. What should we do to more fully realize our mission?

Where feasible, the long-range plan will set forth specific recommendations, goals, and benchmarks.

To allow adequate time for feedback and reflection, it is anticipated that phases one and two will each extend over a full church year. The goal for the first phase is to present a vision statement to the congregation for approval at the 2011 Annual Meeting. The goal for the second phase will be to present a long-range strategic plan to the congregation for approval at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

The third phase will be an ongoing one. During this phase, the LRPC will facilitate an annual review of the Long Range Plan and its implementation. The review will track our progress against the goals and benchmarks set forth in the plan, and where appropriate recommend revisions to those goals and benchmarks. The results of the review will be reported to the congregation as part of the Annual Report.

Because the process of creating a long-range plan is expected to extend over the next two years, it is understood that decisions of significance will not necessarily be deferred pending final approval of a long-range plan. The LRPC will regularly consult with and report to the Board of Directors, and will provide feedback and preliminary recommendations as needed to assist the Board in defining and carrying out the Society's mission in the interim.