

Mission Redefinition

By now we hope you have all had the opportunity to read the facilitator's report from the small group sessions of New Beginnings, including recommendations. In the words of the author of the report, "The progress on some of the report's recommendations, including very important ideas, can be realized very quickly, and evidence of this progress is vital to the longer-term of the church in the view of many New Beginnings participants".

The New Beginnings process is just that: a process. When we undertook this last year, it was with the hope that we would emerge a better understanding of who we are, who we want to become, and what we need to do to get there. This means developing realistic and attainable goals, both short and long term.

From the three choices presented by the New Beginnings process, the facilitators chose "Mission Redefinition" (the other two were "Stay the Same/Do Nothing" and "Redevelopment"). This was chosen from the belief that DPC has the capacity and the potential to align its priorities both internally - with the passions, values, and interests of its members, and externally - with the needs of a large and growing local community.

The New Beginnings Vision Priorities

There are five main categories of the New Beginnings Vision Priorities. With the help of the New Beginnings facilitators (special thanks to Joel Dark), we have been looking at these in terms of First Steps (now), Next Steps (within the next 6 months-2 years) and On the Horizon (long term, 5-10 years). The categories are in no particular order, and there is actually quite a bit of overlap between the actions in each (for example— In terms of "First Steps" both our new interactive art installation and our established Cottage Dinners touch on at least three of these categories, and in terms of "Next Steps", at least 3 or more categories interact or depend on overlap for success. Conversely, there are areas where there are fewer bullet points, but the future development depends on the success of our next steps (being able to renovate/redevelop the 4th floor is a good example).

As always, we hope that you will continue to lift up your Session (and each other) in prayer as we work through our "Next Steps". And we hope that you will all feel encouraged to bring any concerns, comments or suggestions to any Session member or Pastor Mike.

With the peace of Christ, and on behalf of your Session,

Betsy Bahn, Clerk of Session

	First Steps (things we're already doing or recent updates)	Next Steps (within the next 6 months-2 years)	On the Horizon (5-10 years)
Centering Spiritual Care and Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prayer table -Prayer cards/personal reflection/increased recognition of congregational concerns -Increased choir interaction with congregation -Increased involvement with field study interns -Interactive art installation -Tuesday Bible Study -Cottage Dinners -Contemplative Retreat -Juveniles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Small groups for a variety of interests (i.e. bible study, book study, art/ music/crafts, geography/neighborhood interests) -Revitalize Sunday School/Christian Ed to meet needs of congregation and community/neighbors -Confirmation Class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -continuously seeking new creative expressions of faith and connectedness with our congregation and community
Communication and Member Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New Communication Committee -Farmer's Market First Sunday Meals -eVotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New relational communication: Website redesign and update, social media, signage, better use of bulletin boards in church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Congregation as community— maintain informational as well as relational communication
Reimagining Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New Saturday Breakfast Ministry and partnership with Lambscroft Ministries -Wednesday Lunch -The Contributor -Nashville's Open Table -Art Crawl First Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expansion of Saturday Breakfast Ministry -Connect/collaborate with local congregations -promoting our partners better internally (year round instead of just when there is an event) -Open House for local residents Next Steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Building use for more partner organizations -Continuing expansion of Homeless and Urban Poor Ministry

Deepening Engagement with the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“Crafting the Soul” -Browsing Room Gallery -Art Crawl -Artist-in-Residence program -Incorporating arts in worship i.e. Juveniles, interactive art installation -Children’s Art Show 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Art “outside the building” i.e. Art installation outside to show we are a vital and committed congregation -Continue to incorporate arts into worship (visual as well as musical) -Connect our “Artists in Residence” with artists in congregation and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continued commitment to artists, art in our community and growing and expressing faith through the arts
Using our Physical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Art Crawl -Americana Music Fest -DAR/SAR memorial -TED talks -Mothers Against Guns -“Nashville” TV Show -Office space for Contributor and Nashville’s Open Table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Internal/External more PR for community information -Scheduled Tours -Architectural Analysis -Chapel as Event Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -4th Floor Renovation