



Purpose, Mission, and Vision Task Force Script

Steve: Our journey began, years before we were called to be a Task Force.

Debbie: In the spring of 2019, the Elders and Deacons held a retreat. A part of this retreat was to consider our vision, to be Christ-Centered, Biblically-Based, and Community-Minded. The question was asked what it meant to be Christ-Centered, Biblically-Based, and Community-Minded.

Melissa: Over the course of discussing the various answers to the questions posed, it became evident that the leadership of our church was not clear what it means to be Christ-Centered, Biblically-Based, and Community-Minded. Oh sure, there were wonderful answers to the questions, but there was no consensus. No clear interpretation of our vision.

Steve: The next year another retreat was planned to further explore our vision and to see if perhaps God was calling us to a new vision or at least to clarify our existing vision, but we all know that Covid hit, so the retreat was put on hold for the time being.

- Ashtyn: Then on Saturday, April 10th the Deacons, Elders, and Staff joined together for a retreat. The purpose of this retreat was to consider our current vision and to see if God was calling us to a new vision or to better understand our current vision.
- Richard: At this retreat the Deacons, Elders, and Staff engaged videos from an organization called Church Fuel. This organization helps congregations work through what God's purpose, mission, and vision is for the local church.
- Melissa: The participants were separated into 6 different groups, so that each group had a Deacon, an Elder, and a Staff member.
- Debbie: After each video was watched each participant spent some time in prayer and reflection about what was viewed. Then they wrote down their thoughts. Next they gathered with their partners and shared their thoughts.
- Richard: After a time of sharing with their partners, the trios gathered with another trio to share their thoughts and work to come up with a statement. Finally, each of the groups of now 6 people shared with the larger group and discussion happened.
- Steve: At the end of this long, yet productive day, we had three different statements in each area, purpose, mission, and vision. The day was concluded in prayer and worship. The next step was for your Session (the Elders) to prayerfully consider the work that was done at the retreat and how they felt God was calling us to move forward.

- Richard: Your Session prayed about this during the last part of April, all of May. The Session also shared the work that was done at the retreat with their respective Ministry teams.
- Debbie: At the May Session meeting time was spent in prayer and discussion about how to proceed. More prayer was given between the May and June meetings. Then at their June meeting it was discerned that God was calling us to consider a new purpose, mission, and vision. The Session decided that the best way to proceed was to form a task force.
- Melissa: It was determined that there should be two youth, an adult member who has been a part of our church for a long time, an adult member who is newer to our church, and an Elder and a Deacon. The Session asked for an Elder to volunteer and Richard volunteered and was agreed upon to be the Elder representative.
- Ashtyn: During the Session meeting, names were shared about the youth and adults who may be called to be on this task force. The Session appointed Pastor Mark to make the calls and invite the people to be on the task force and to be the facilitator. The Deacons discussed their representative and Debbie volunteered.
- Richard: During July Pastor Mark contacted those people who were named and invited them to pray about serving on the task force. The intent was to have everyone in place and be able to begin in September, but due to the death of Pastor Mark's Mom, timing was delayed and the team was not pulled together until September. Our first meeting occurred on Sunday, October 17th. At this first meeting we looked over the definitions that Church Fuel uses when talking

about purpose, mission, and vision. Church Fuel defines purpose this way.

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Debbie: Purpose is the deep sense of why we do what we do. Our purpose is never really accomplished.

Richard: Church Fuel defines mission this way.

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Steve: Mission is the what matters most now. Mission is specific, tangible, and has a due date.

Debbie: Church Fuel defines vision this way.

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Melissa: Vision is a word picture that describes the future. We use it to help people see what we are saying. Vision is talking about the future whether it is short term or long term. It is a picture of what our future will look like.

Debbie: After we had heard and understood the definitions we were to use, as a task force, we looked over the statements that the officers and staff came up with at the retreat, so that we could be familiar with them.

Steve: We then watched the video from Church Fuel on purpose. This gave us plenty of material to look at and pray over. We were excited for the work to be done and even though Pastor Mark told us he thought we would meet once a

month, we decided we could not wait that long and determined to meet in two weeks.

Ashtyn: We came together after having two weeks to pray about what we felt God was saying our purpose is as a church. Using the statements from the officer and staff retreat, we began to draft a purpose statement. Over the course of the next two months we repeated this process of praying, discerning, discussing, drafting, and ultimately agreeing on a purpose statement and a mission statement.

Richard: It was tough work and we got bogged down a bit with the mission statement. Using the definition provided to us by Church Fuel, we finally determined that our first mission statement would be something that was coming up.

Ashtyn: After completing the draft of the purpose and mission statements, we began work on the vision statement just before Christmas. We found this statement to be the most challenging. We were glad to have a bit of a break during Christmas so that we could rest and pray. We determined before we took a break to reach out to some members of our congregation and ask for their input on six different vision statements.

Steve: We selected people based on age, gender, and involvement in the life, mission, and ministry of our church.

Melissa: When we gathered again on January 9th, we heard what the individuals from our congregation had to say about which statements they connected with the most and what they felt God was calling our vision to be.

Ashtyn: There was not a clear consensus, but it helped us narrow the six statements down to three. These three statements were fairly similar. We decided that we would go home and pray about these statements and let the Holy Spirit continue to guide us.

Debbie: When we gathered two weeks later, we were able to come to a consensus in a short time frame. It was evident that God was helping us with not just the vision statement draft, but had been with us, guiding us, and giving us the words throughout the entire process.

Richard: The next step in this process was to present the statements to the Session, but before we get to that process, we want you to know that as a task force we discussed how to proceed with the drafted statements that we had so diligently and prayerfully worked on. Should our next step be to bring it to the congregation for input?

Steve: We know that some of you would have liked to have had a say. Our concern was that we had spent so many hours in discussion and it was difficult for the six of us to come to a consensus on what we felt God is saying our purpose, mission, and vision should be. If the six of us struggled, how much more would the struggle be if we had a chorus of voices?

Richard: That concern, of bringing this to the entire congregation, would present so many ideas and suggestions, we would get bogged down in sifting through all of the voices, ideas, and suggestions and not be able to come to a consensus. We want you to know that we have prayed consistently

throughout this entire process. We have listened and discerned what we believe is God's guiding voice.

Melissa: All in all, we believe that the church has been very well represented in this process. 34 individuals have been a part of this process in one way or another. That is over ¼ of our congregation who is actively attending worship and participating in the life, mission, and ministry of our church.

Steve: On January 24th, the newly drafted purpose, mission, and vision for our church was presented to the Session. The practice of the Session is to receive, listen, ask questions, and then to pray about the decisions they are asked to make. Your Elders received the proposed purpose, mission, and vision statement, asked their questions, and then took it home to pray about.

Richard: At their February meeting, which actually needed to take place on March 3rd due to Pastor Mark's schedule, the Session chose to vote on approving and adopting the new purpose, mission, and vision statement for our church. The vote was unanimous and there was absolutely no questions or concerns raised.

Debbie: As a task force, we were very pleased to receive this news. It was assurance that we have been faithful in what God has called us to do. So now here we are introducing our new purpose, mission, and vision of the church.

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Ashtyn: Our purpose, the why, of who we are and what we do is Bringing the Word of the Living Christ to all people through service and love.

Pause and allow people to receive, read, and absorb the statement.

Ashtyn: Does anyone have any questions?

Time for Questions and Answers

Melissa: Before I share the mission statement with you, I want to remind you that mission is the what matters most now. Mission is specific, tangible, and has a due date. At the time we drafted the mission statement we were in the process of considering doing a study of the Sailboat Church. So the mission statement that we drafted is

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Melissa: Westminster Presbyterian Church is to have 100% of WPC youth and adults complete discussing Sailboat Church book in study groups by April 3, 2022.

Pause and allow people to receive, read, and absorb the statement.

Richard: Of course, April 3rd has passed and our mission statement is already obsolete. This is okay. As we have been learning about being a Sailboat Church, we have learned that there are times where we need to discern what God is doing. Your Session is already in prayer about our next mission statement.

Steve: Furthermore, they are considering that it might be better for us to have a mission statement that is short term, like the one shown on the screen, along with a mission statement that is further down the road. Even, perhaps, having a longer term mission statement. As a task force, we invite you to be in prayer for our church, especially for our Elders who are called to be the leaders of this church and to discern our next mission or mission statements.

Ashtyn: Does anyone have any questions?

Time for Questions and Answers

Melissa: Our vision statement is . . .

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Debbie: Westminster is a welcoming place of love and faith where we are led by the Holy Spirit to serve our community.

Pause and allow people to receive, read, and absorb the statement.

Steve: Does anyone have any questions?

Time for Questions and Answers

Pastor Mark will say a few words and close in prayer.