

DreamScape 2020

First Church San Diego has re-envisioned itself several times over 150 years. Affirming this same willingness to embrace God's call, we propose a new way of being the church. This new way is not tied to a single location nor a single pastor, but instead recognizes that God is calling us to serve the world around us in different places, in different ways, with different expressions of what it means to be the body of Christ. What will unite us is an abiding commitment to grow in the grace of God and reach out with the love of Jesus Christ.

As one church, at multiple sites, and in many congregations, we celebrate the diversity of God's people within the larger, bi-national region of which we are a part. Worshiping in ways that are authentic to each context, we will proclaim the good news and celebrate the sacraments, while opening ourselves to the blessings that all people are prepared to share. Living together in relationships of accountable discipleship, we will serve our many communities through acts of compassion, devotion, worship, and justice. To support one another in these acts, we will organize our ministries and align our abundant resources: properties, facilities, finances, staff and communications.

- **Compassion**
 - Create a robust culture of congregational care.
 - Engage every individual in a culture of radical hospitality, equipping them to “love kindness and walk humbly with their God.”
- **Devotion**
 - Create clear and accessible paths of spiritual growth, authentic to our many contexts.
 - Promote ongoing spiritual formation, leading toward relationships of accountable discipleship.
 - Develop and strengthen age-level ministries as integral expressions of the whole church.
- **Worship**
 - Multiply opportunities for people to encounter God through word and sacrament.
 - Create diverse and dynamic experiences of worship beyond the walls of the church.
- **Justice**
 - Become a significant partner in addressing the pressing challenges that confront the least, the last, and the lost of the greater San Diego region.
 - Advocate for the full inclusion of all people and celebrate diversity in all dimensions, within the church and beyond.

The church is not a building; rather, it is a life-giving community of people called to love God and neighbor. We offer these plans in the hope of becoming more and more this kind of church, that we might fulfill our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Living out DreamScape 2020

Possible Dreams from Sharing Circles

(These are not official plans, only a summary of ideas heard in Sharing Circles.)

- **Compassion**
 - Design and implement a "life-transitions curriculum," with mix of workshops, courses and online resources aimed at critical life transitions
 - Formalize and organize a network of trained, lay care-givers ... Stephens Ministry or something like it
 - Staff shared spaces created by new hospitality "makeover" with trained greeters and hosts.
 - Design and implement calendar of "Welcome to First Church" activities ... campus tours, meet-and-greet with the pastors, etc.
 - Re-launch "section leader" program for 9 am & 10:30 am Sanctuary services
- **Devotion**
 - Implement a "core curriculum" introducing new constituents to the life of Christian discipleship
 - Design and implement an online expression of First Church's relationship pathways to assist people in finding their way into the church
 - Build on success of all-church studies to introduce constituents to accountable discipleship
 - Open Spiritual Growth Groups (Covenant Discipleship Groups) to the whole congregation
 - Curate continually refreshing calendar of opportunities for individuals to take concrete acts of worship, devotion, compassion, justice
 - Design and implement calendar of cross-generational opportunities of worship, compassion, devotion and justice
 - Transform staff "Ministry Team" to "Discipleship Team," with key staff positions organized around clusters of households strategically organized
- **Worship**
 - Continue to experiment with Wednesday evening format
 - Launch one new worship service by 2019 and lay the groundwork to launch another in 2021
 - Develop and implement a calendar of labyrinth walks in heavily trafficked public venues
 - Develop and implement a calendar of communion services in heavily trafficked public venues
 - Develop and implement calendar of regular First Church visits to El Faro: the Border Church
- **Justice**
 - Build stronger partnerships with the LGBTQ community, St Paul's UMC and other groups experiencing oppression
 - Create a partnership with JFON El Centro (Justice for Our Neighbors) and the San Diego Immigrants' Rights Consortium to address the needs and rights of immigrants and asylum seekers in our community
 - Celebrate with humility First Church's move to celebrate same-gender weddings
 - Host a conference in Fall 2019 addressing issues of Race & Racism in San Diego on the occasion of the city's 150th Anniversary
 - Building on our existing mission engagements with the homeless (Showers of Blessing, Water's Edge) and low-income families (Cherokee Point), engage the entire congregation in a learning agenda around San Diego's crisis in affordable housing