

Planning for the Future of our Community of Faith

Your Gilmore Park Board has been brainstorming about our hopes and how we should plan for our future as a congregation.

We all agree that we hope for a healthy, thriving and growing community of faith that is active in our community for many years to come.

But the question is: how do we do that? Where should we focus our efforts?

We believe God's Spirit leads us through all of our voices as we pray, consider and perceive God's guidance. So we are asking you to prayerfully consider and respond to these questions. Please share all of your answers; we are brainstorming and want lots of responses!

- 1. Why did you come to/join Gilmore Park?**
- 2. Why do you stay?**
- 3. What *particular* needs exist in our community that we might address?**
- 4. What new initiative is God leading us to take in the next 1-3 years?**

The Board will gather responses in February and invite everyone to a gathering to review the responses. We hope to bring a summary to our congregational Annual Meeting on March 15. From this, we hope to articulate a renewed vision and outline a few key priorities for the future. The Board's role will be to gather your input and suggest next steps. The vision will come from and belong to the congregation.

Each small group in the congregation is asked to take 15-30 minutes during their usual meeting to respond to these questions. The ministers and Board members are happy to help facilitate, or the group can do their own facilitation. Please record all responses and either bring hard copies to the church office or email them to the Board Secretary, Tanya Martens (tanyammartens@gmail.com).

We will also invite everyone to join a short session after worship on Feb. 8 or Feb. 22 to share their responses. Later in February we will also make this document available to individuals (with space for answers) and also as an online survey, in case people haven't been included in a group session and want to respond individually.

