



Greetings from the Vision Team!

Ever since we started meeting in April of 2025, we have sought to carry out our purpose, "To facilitate spiritual opportunities to grow as a community of faith so we can discern and embody God's vision for us as we partner with God to achieve God's vision in the world."

For over a year, we have learned about best practices for clarifying a congregation's mission, vision, and values. We have reflected on bible passages related to spiritual discernment, God's vision, and the purpose of the church. We have offered ways for church members to share their perspectives including a cultural identity tour, a special worship service to remember our church's history, and an invitation for people to share their dreams and visions. Most recently, we researched both the internal context of our congregation and the external context of our surrounding community and shared our findings with the church council.

We are now beginning to put into words the unique mission, vision, and values God has entrusted to our church. There are a couple of scripture passages that have been foundational for our discernment. We invite everyone to join in reading and reflecting on these texts as we listen for God's voice together.

**Matthew 4:18-25** – *This was the passage used as inspiration for the naming of our congregation in 1968. It tells the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, two sets of fishermen brothers: Simon and Andrew, James and John. A key verse is 4:19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."*

**Ephesians 4:1-16** – *This passage provides a vision of the church as one body with many members, each uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit and called to build up the church in love. Key verses are 4:11-12, "He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."*

Considering these texts and our learning so far, we have also identified four key concepts as important aspects of God's vision for St. Andrew. We're calling them "**The 4 Cs**":

**CALLING** – *Just like Andrew was called by the Sea of Galilee, each of us are uniquely gifted and called to follow Jesus and join in God's mission of embracing the world with God's love.*

**CONNECTION** – *We seek to be deeply connected to God, one another, and a world in need, including building relational bridges across geographical distance and socioeconomic differences in our surrounding community.*

**COLLABORATION** – *Sharing in ministry together, co-laboring with God and others, is essential to building up the body of Christ and spreading his love. We seek to build a culture of shared ministry within our congregation and to work in collaborative ways with others in our community.*

**COMPASSION** – *Immediately after he called the first disciples, Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching, sharing the good news, healing, and showing mercy. We seek to live out the compassion of Jesus as a faith community and in our daily lives.*

In the coming months, you will be hearing from the Vision Team through temple talks and newsletter articles as we seek to refine language and ideas that will articulate God's mission for St. Andrew and our next faithful step. Our goal is to have statements ready to be considered by the congregation at our annual meeting in November. If you have questions or insights you'd like to share, please email the team at [vision@standrewofcl.org](mailto:vision@standrewofcl.org). Please join us in reflection, conversation, and prayer.

In Christ, St. Andrew's Vision Team



(From left to right: Jeff Meyer, Wendy Kuenemann, Pastor Chris Steubing, Donna Clark, Bill Parks, Kristine Brzozowski, and Tom Pearson)