

President's Message – November 2015

Who are we? What do we do as a church? How do we aim to go about accomplishing our work?

These are big questions that we have addressed in the past. However, that was prior to many large changes in our circumstances. We have moved to a new, larger, facility since the last time we addressed these items. Additionally, we were working under a different settled minister. How have these changes impacted the way we define ourselves, and our modus operandi? How has nearly a decade changed our perspective for that matter?

The time has come for us to collectively answer these questions again. Reverend Benjamin has extended an open invitation to members of the congregation to provide input, and I am doing the same.

Lay leaders will gather at church on January 30th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, to review our mission and vision statements:

<http://www.smuuchurch.org/index.php?page=mission>

Other members of the congregation are encouraged to attend and provide a variety of perspectives on our continuing work as a congregation. In defining the ministries of the church, the more the merrier. We're all in this together after all.

Revisiting these questions is an important step in defining who we are. They will help those in our community better determine their level of interest in our congregation. They will help other faith communities identify common areas of interest for potential shared ministries. They will provide ongoing guidance to lay leadership in decision making. Most proximally, they will help prospective ministers interested in our congregation determine if SMUUCH is a place they feel moved to work with.

Together, let's define of exactly who we want to be, and how we want to go about making sure we get there. This is the foundation to all we do at SMUUCH. Please, help lay leadership ensure that foundation underlays the whole church.

Signups for those interested will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. In the meantime, start thinking about how we have changed as a congregation, and how those changes ought to be reflected in our mission and vision.

The work of the church depends on us all.

Zach Irwin
Board President