

First United Lutheran Church

2016 Congregational Goals Initial Brainstorming Ideas



To All FULC members and visitors:

PROGRESS ON FULC GOALS! Thanks go out to all the members who joined us for a brainstorming session about FULC goals on Saturday, June 4th, 2016. We are especially grateful to Bev Arends for moderating the event. We are excited about making progress in each of the goal areas stated below, but we need your help. If you are interested in helping out on any of the below topics, please contact the ministry director listed.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS, Bev Arends, arends.bev@gmail.com

CAMPUS MINISTRY, Ben Harris, benharris1313@yahoo.com

EVANGELISM, Lois Gilbert, lois_mike@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION, Pam Merriman, pammer675@yahoo.com

...and **SENIOR MINISTRY**, Chairperson Paul Johnson, pljwogs@yahoo.com

On the following pages you will find the ideas that were presented for each goal area. Perhaps you have more ideas for one of the topics? If so, I hope you will dive in!

Peace be with you in the name of Our Savior Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Winchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Dave Winchell, Council President

FULC 2016 CONGREGATIONAL GOALS—INITIAL BRAINSTORMING IDEAS

GOAL 1

COMMUNICATIONS

Scope

Despite our efforts, communications among our people, groups, and leaders has not been consistently thorough, resulting in unnecessary conflict. Many of our real or perceived problems would become much smaller if we solve this. It will be accomplished by researching successful methods done by other churches and organizations, brainstorming ideas, and implementing new protocols to be adopted by our Council, committees, and independent small group ministries.

Vice President

Bev Arends

Program Name

Key Volunteer

Molly Werner

Regular Participants

Idea 1

FULC needs a more welcoming and attractive website that allows members to post things and opens dialog between members and guests like a blog page.

Add an events calendar (Do we have one?)

Have a way to get back editions of The Uniter.

Idea 2

Post council agenda on a passworded web page at least 2 days before the council meeting.

Provide bulleted synopsis of council agenda to Sunday handouts before meeting, so that if people have a comment or question, they can come to meeting.

Add to the bottom of it a contact person for questions or additional agenda items.

Approve and post all meeting minutes to a passworded web page within one week of every meeting.

Provide alternative for those who do [not??] use passworded web pages.

This will only work if council had a way to approve minutes within a week after the meeting, so maybe there would need to be bylaws change or maybe it is a continuing resolution change because right now accepting minutes by email is not permitted.

Or, instead, clearly label as "Draft Unapproved" or council notes (not minutes)

Be sure of the source of the information. And consider the reasonableness of it.

Document a set of principles for producing an effective communication.

Idea 3

On the TV monitor, have the following displayed:

- Top 10 events
- Top 10 decisions
- Most urgent prayers needed

The above could also go out as a weekly email to the congregation.

- New members' photographs with names
- Special events
- Needs for participation on committees
- Explanation of what committees do.

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Include an announcement sheet in the Sunday bulletin with activities and other information for the week that includes enough detail to be easily understood this can be taken home by people rather than trying to remember other announcements that are only found out on Sunday morning could be given orally as presently being done

Use the phone tree and/or mail chimp to solicit the content from members and leaders. Send out in an email.

Provide timely information and enough time for consideration of items.

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Send the weekly bulletin info out in an email on the Thursday or Friday before the Sunday of the bulletin via email so those folks who will not be attending on Sunday will know about the prayers, upcoming events, future Sunday Servants etc. Sent to the congregation members.

Include announcements that may not be in the bulletin.

Provide phone tree communications for items not requiring congregation approval but are of interest to majority of members.

Other ideas

COMMUNICATIONS: Once a month, in the fourth week of the month, after council meeting, a council member (assigned for that month) will hold an informational briefing in the Fellowship Hall. This will be bi-directional (e.g., solicit concerns as well as distribute information.)

Provide and obtain information, answer questions as able, take information back to council.

Getting people to attend meeting is the challenge. Congregation meeting as example. How do we generate more interest in listening reading available information completely? Solution??

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Problem to be solved: Get receiver to completely read/listen to the message transmitted, and question the source if not understood. Need more 2 way communication—probably in real time.

Appoint an ombudsman to negotiate misunderstandings and/or a communications director (could be the same person).

Develop a committee to handle problems, misunderstandings

Do not participate in rumors, provide information that can be supported.

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GOAL 2

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Scope

Our church is surrounded by a college campus. It is virtually the only property on campus that is not part of the university. There are a large number of students crossing our property every day; in part through the use of our parking lot by the university. We have a Pastor who has campus ministry as one of his cherished goals. But we have yet to implement an official program for helping to bring college students to belief in Jesus Christ as their personal savior. This program will do that, not necessarily with FULC membership as an end goal (although that would be great) but simply as a means to be faithful servants to the Great Commission (Matthew 28).

Ministry Director

Ben Harris

Program Name

Key Volunteer

Matthew McCarthy

Regular Participants

Idea 1

Host servant events here at FULC for KSU's service/outreach day each spring (a Saturday in April). They go throughout the community to do projects cleaning, picking up trash, painting, etc. We could get a Thrivent Action Team grant to buy supplies, snacks, and give the students t-shirts. It would be a great way to get our spring cleanup accomplished, build relations, and have fun together.

Have a BBQ after, complete with corn hold and other college age games that would raise location awareness and further fellowship. [Great idea!]

Also "Great Idea" Can't think of any improvements.

Pay off mortgage and hire a pastor to help us do campus ministry.

Idea 2

During the school year when we have 100s of students coming in and out of our parking lot we set up a table(s)/tent in the parking lot (middle and close to the road) maybe once a month? In the morning with coffee, maybe some juice too and cookies. Offering free coffee to the students can have info about our church (groups/Dinner Church, worship times) available but only if they are interested.

Yes, and combine this with drive by prayer!

Let's do this on Tuesdays and invite them to Dinner Church.
Use Thrivent Grant to buy supplies.

Drive by prayer ministry in parking lot on specific days: Move in day, Finals week.

Could combine this with another idea (on another sheet) offering free coffee 1 morning per month and also take prayer requests.

Set up under our overhang so as not to impede traffic flow or set up by bridge to chat as they walk to and from class, and we could get an action team grant from Thrivent

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for this.

Idea 3

Provide care packages for incoming freshmen who live on campus. Pack this with treats and other items including information about programs and worship at FULC.

Unarchive and r-examine previously recommended and documented student respite program. Use the best elements.

Have some sort of college S.S. type class we can offer as one of our programs. Would also be good if we could get our info out to all students.

Work with existing campus ministries to see if there's anything we can offer that they don't already have, like Canterbury club, the Episcopalian campus ministry (our full communion partner). We could get a Thrivent Action Team grant.

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Other ideas

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Some sort of “grandparent or parent” substitute mentoring program for kids who don’t have close contact (emotionally or geographically) with their own families. A system for kids knowing they have an older adult to turn to for support, advice, prayer, etc.

Set this up with VKSU, the KSU volunteer program through the CARE resource center.

Encourage these mentors to invite students home for a meal.

FULC could post a “mail box” by street to invite KSU students/staff and faculty—anyone who walks by it to put written prayer requests and will post a set time when Pastor Tony will be available for talking/praying/listening.

Good idea “Mail box” needs to be seen and easy to get to.

Someone will need to monitor these so we don’t lose requests and can follow up.

Go up on campus and do an approved tent set up to give out coffee and/or snacks to let students know we are here and let them know about Dinner Church, etc.

Do this as a part of student orientation and/or Bazaar on the Bricks.

Get a Thrivent Action Team grant for these.

We can sponsor or host events that raise awareness of our ministry that also supports their causes as well.

Participate in Bazaar on the Bricks as well as put up flyers in approved areas to draw attention to these FULC programs.

Use our own teens (along with a few adults) to hand out the info at Bazaar on the Bricks. Give them some training about sharing their faith.

Research the 364 existing student groups to see how we can support one of them.
<https://owllife.kennesaw.edu/Organizations>

That’s a lot of groups! Is there a resource at KSU that would help us narrow down most likely groups that would make sense?

Sponsoring an event or a group could be a great idea to raise awareness for our church.

Invite students to hang hammocks in our woods.

Run this idea by Property so that it becomes an official ministry of the church covered

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by our insurance, and get volunteers to serve as hosts for this event, and share this with the Catholics.

Do we have enough woods and trees to make this happen? Nice idea Create an outdoor study lounge.

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We could go to different college departments and offer to have their students use our church members for different activities “The Use it or Lose it” exercise program is a good example.

We have connections with a religion professor, a physical education professor, a business professor, and a conflict resolution professor to start with.

Provide a study lounge, or just straight up lounge for students to use to unwind away from busy campus life. This is along with professors encouraged use of our facilities.

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GOAL 3

EVANGELISM

Scope

The lifeblood of our ministry at FULC is service; we simply help people. It is the core of much if not all of what our committees and small groups do. Yet, we do not consistently use our delivery of service as a tool to invite people to join us in the body of Christ. So, we are not leveraging our greatest strength. This initiative will seek to implement ways to ask the people we serve to come be with us. It will also find ways for the evangelism function at FULC to become more self-sustaining; e.g. have a clear set of annual tasks and programs. It also will seek to include FULC in more ELCA-affiliated activities.

Ministry Director

Lois Gilbert

Program Name

People Fishers

Key Volunteer

Susan Lyke

Regular Participants

Idea 1

When a member has not been in church for 23 weeks, we should telephone and ask if there is a reason for their non-attendance.

We could send cards to these members also.

Yes and be very invitational to invite to upcoming worship and special events.

Idea 2

We could prepare ourselves for 1 year or so by studying and practicing key texts on discipleship e.g. Beatitudes and Matthew 25.

Yes, and list in the bulletin the text (e.g. Matthew 25) and suggest the time if appropriate... [Incomplete sentence]

Yes, and we could ask Pastor to make this a part of our Sunday morning worship services. A study time and reminder to review Matthew together. Do before the children's service.

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For visitors, make sure we talk to them, welcome them and if they live near here, get their names and address. When you see them again, if they come back to church, welcome them and ask if we can help them with something.

Great idea! Have packets available with our programs, groups etc. (what we do) listed and invite them to come and observe or join in.

Yes, and if leave name/address or phone/email, plan to deliver a loaf of bread

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Greeters

Idea 3

Articles could be written in local newspapers about our activities like the youth group, the foreign missions, and small groups (quilting etc.) and maybe other will become interested.

Yes! We should send out regular releases to media on these activities. This also makes me realize we need to do this better on our own web site.

Local subdivisions have newsletters we could put articles in those we belong to [in order] to attract new residents who might not have a church yet.

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Whenever a project is done to help others, give them a card with our church name (and/or member name), address and saying come worship with us. List the hours of 1st and 2nd service.

Yes, and have the church office print up nice large cards (bigger than normal) with special logo, Bible verses and picture of Pastor on it.

When we have helped others, telling what we have done, then they could be responsible for passing out these cards to their neighbors and friends.

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If allowed summer lunch bags could include a Christian item and our name so that they would be invited to join us.

Yes, and where are these lunches distributed? We could get these items at the Christian bookstore or online in bulk.

Yes, and teachers use little gimmicks like a pack of life savers to show Jesus loves us. Eraser: erases our mistakes/sin etc.

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Use all media available (music, church Facebook, personal Facebook pages, You Tube, mission works, blood drives, food drives, speaking opportunities) to show and project the love found here at FULC and encourage people in their discovery and walk with God.

Yes, and Pastor Tony's sermons should be available on You Tube, perhaps on web site written

Yes and show respect and love by being good examples. Show we are Christians. Say "Have a blessed day."

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Area groups Care and Share

Other ideas

EVANGELISM: We already do it just by serving others in need. We may amplify this with written invitation to worship with us or meet with our pastor available at service site (e.g. Must Ministry, blood bank).

Yes, and invest in a local mail out and a follow-up mail out to invite people. Design a beautiful card.

Have greeters back again. Have area group.

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Let the love of Christ shine through our lives and our personality (traits) Share this love and grace wherever we go. Let others see, feel and experience Christ's love in our lives. Remember, through us. This may be the only time someone "sees" Christ that day!!!

Yes, and prepare ourselves to be disciples, what are attributes of a disciple, and study Jesus' teachings to get at them (Beatitudes and Matthew 25).

Yes, and remember to smile at many people and make them laugh.

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After letting Christ's love in and "sharing it" in everything and everywhere we go (everywhere), invite those persons to one of our great services at FULC!! Be direct but informal about it but invite them and then leave it up to them and the Lord.

Yes, and make sure as much as possible, our local service includes relationship building time.

Yes, and make a better effort to mix traditional and 1st service with the "coffee hour" socials for relationship building and just simple meet and greet each other.

GOAL 4

MEMBERSHIP

Scope

The goal of our membership function has been to nurture our members, especially those who are experiencing troubles in their lives, are ill, grieving, or have become disconnected from us. We also need to use this function as a way to promote involvement; in short, to fill jobs at FULC. We know that having a purpose in the church is personally enriching and we know that accepting a role in the church helps to bring about a regularity in participation and a belongingness, rather than church just being a sometimes thing in our lives. We also know that broadening participation will spread the workload and prevent burnout among others who perhaps already do too much. This is the focus of this initiative.

Ministry Director

Pam Merriman

Program Name

Involve Yourself

Key Volunteer

Regular Participants

Idea 1

As part of new member class encourage new members to join a committee or small group.

Yes, and offer short training sessions.

Have a representative from each group come to the new member's class to explain the mission of each, to answer questions, and recruit members.

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Pastor can ask new members and others to serve in the church, assistants, ushers, and those that attended the new member's class.

Pastor can notify the groups what the new members seem interested in.

Committee chairs could meet with the class one week with specifics of the different areas.

Idea 2

Post time and talent needs online by sortable categories so people can match their interests and gifts with specific tasks at church. People would be able to sign up online.

Yes, and have a poster at church for sign-up too.

Summarize and give to committees to till their needs.

Idea 3

Maybe have a “FULC Service Fair”, where representatives of each group are available to describe the group’s activities and recruit interested people.

Or, each committee chair person can have training on a regular basis.

Have a signup sheet of all interested parties.

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Other ideas

MEMBERSHIP: Sign Up Genius is a method of signing up for and participating in regular service to FULC, for example, readers, pastor assistants, acolytes.

Teaching each one that would be participating in these services to have a class to remind is it's good to share different method of involvement.

Job descriptions, time commitment, and contact person should be available for each of the tasks listed.

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Determine/identify members with regular attendance that aren't involved in a service to the church. Approach these members (How? Who? Pastor?)

Yes, and make the invitation to help very personal!

If someone is asked to do anything, an experienced member should work with that person until they feel comfortable.

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Have an "every member visit" for stewardship and provide a time and talent sheet for every person. Let them commit to one "thing" even if it is only one Sunday commitment.

Love this idea. I am not the one for a stewardship visit, but like the idea of all members commit to a service. That is what "membership" means. You belong by doing to any type of membership.

Yes, and Time and Talent sheets much specify what you would like to do, not what you have been doing.

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Set up a schedule (monthly) and post it for everyone.

Post it on the monitor in the entry area. Good idea, but how do we obtain the volunteers to put on the schedule?

Good to move them to desire.

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Move members toward involvement, not having a fear that they may not be good enough to qualify in leadership.

Face to face is effective to filling slots people wait to be asked rather than jump in as volunteer.

Yes, people want to be invited personally.

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Slice and dice every ministry and housekeeping task into 1-hour, 2-hour, and half day chunks so people know exactly what they are committing for/to.

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Yes, and offer training.

And have a leader assigned to each task who can organize and coordinate the scheduled individuals.

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List the tasks in the weekly bulletin, in the monthly Uniter, on the internet, through emails, on Facebook FULC page.

Yes, and set the schedule for a month at a time.

Yes that should reach everyone's preferred way to receive info and follow up with phone calls.