



### Remembering the Past

Initially copies of the history of MVPC (from Robert Walsh's book) were passed out to participants and we reviewed it, discussing what was there, and what folks remembered that was not recorded there.

### Observations:

Two previous mission studies were done, one 15 years ago ("CLAIM", with support of the presbytery) And 5 years ago (Rev. Tobin Wilson, Administrative Commission /Appreciative Inquiry process)

#### the written history noted the following:

- there have been numerous pastors and frequent pastoral vacancies
- the congregation was "birthed" from a Sunday School, planted here in 1916
- MVPC was chartered as a congregation in 1944, having now completed 65 years of ministry

In addition to the 28 years as a neighborhood Sunday School for a total of 93 years of Christian presence in White Center!

#### the written history did not include the following:

- the importance of prayer throughout the years
- the sending of three missionary families abroad during the 1960's
- a "split" during the 1960's over the "Charismatic revival". While this was divisive, it also broke up some cliques and gossip that had created problems.
- Stewardship of the past allows present ministries, as the church mortgage is paid and is presently debt free
- Finances have varied greatly through the years, which may have contributed in part, to the pastoral vacancies
- a very significant relationship/connection exists with the Seattle presbytery and some of the churches in it: First Presbyterian, University Pres., Westside Pres., Lake Burien Pres.
- Over the years there has been increasing diversity in the community outside, but not inside. That is changing now and the congregation is slowly becoming a better reflection of the community.

#### What we have learned from our past:

- The importance of prayer
- MVPC has always been (and continues to be) a place for children and youth
- Relationships/networking has made a significant contribution to MVPC in a wide variety of ways
- Recognize the value of unity and dissent as times to grow spiritually and otherwise
- we are grateful for the saints who have gone before us, and are a reminder of a Kingdom perspective on our church and ministry



**Values:** (Listed in no particular order....)

- Welcoming invitational attitude
- People matter—children, youth and seniors
- Authenticity
- Unity in Christ with all
- Concern for the vulnerable
- Diversity in Multicultural/multi-Fourlinguistic relationships
- freedom to participate (or not)
- White Center as a place to live
- The Bible as God's Word to us
- Food for body (potluck!) and soul (worship and study)
- Need to be needed (i.e. valuing the gifts of all and providing a place to serve)
- Our location in WC and our space/facility
- Fun/Joy ☐

**Our Purpose:**

- To serve children/youth
- To share the Good news/Gospel of Jesus Christ (giving opportunity to hear)
- To be together with people in relationship—which involves transformation, at some level

**Our Mission:**

- to reach out to make friends of 'strangers' in Jesus' name

**Our Partnerships**

MVPC has significant partnerships with the following:

Seattle Union Gospel Mission (afterschool/summer programs for elementary and middle school students)

YES Foundation (ministry to at-risk youth)

World Vision

University Presbyterian Church of Seattle

Center for Transforming Mission

Seattle Presbytery

(The nature of each of these partnerships is/will be described in a "Memo of Understanding" (MOU) which will be available separately.)

As to these partnerships, what does MVPC "give" and "gain" with relation to each of these groups?

UGM—"give"—space/utilities, volunteers, members (Director is a member of MVPC)

"Gain"—a training ground for young leaders, a safe place with caring adults for children of the community,

"access" to families in White Center, development of the garden, some financial and "in kind" donations.

YES Foundation—"give" space/Recording Studio, fundraisers/financial support

"Gain"—Leaders (Director is a member), access to youth, more partnerships (Cascade Bike Club, Major Taylor, Jack Thompson Sports Camp, etc.)

World Vision—"give" occasional space, Fundraising/Samoa Relief

"Gain"—Leaders (Lina/Reed/others) Access to training, In Kind donations that contribute to "Christmas in June"/ "Block Party" in August

Visibility in Community, school supplies to share with neighbors and partners



University Presbyterian Church of Seattle—"give" use of Manse for Seattle Urban Intentional Community program (ended in August 2009), volunteers

"Gain"—Leader Training, Development of young adult leaders, some financial assistance, "exposure" and becoming known in the greater community. Build Up The House—a major remodel of the sanctuary and facility including handicap accessible restrooms, a state-of-the-art recording studio, updated kitchen, etc. that was completed in the month of July 2007.

Center for Transforming Mission—"give" space in exchange for leader training

Seattle Presbytery—"give" our per capita, our participation, volunteers

"Gain"—Support in the form of prayer, listening, support via the Administrative Commission (1998-2008) to keep the church open and viable.

### **"SWOT"—Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats**

#### Strengths

Resources:

1. Facilities
2. Human Resources: pastor/"staff" of our partnering groups/elders/volunteers/members
3. Active Partnerships: Seattle Union Gospel Mission, YES Foundation, University Presbyterian Church, Center for Transforming Mission, World Vision, (and formerly, SUIC)

Outreach to children and youth

Welcoming Atmosphere: "come as you are" mindset/attitude

Commitment to Community

Few Boundaries with lots of opportunity

Ownership: responsible participation when need arises

#### "Weaknesses"/Areas of needed growth

- More leader training and development opportunities
- Learn ways to support members vocationally
- Spiritual nurture and discipleship of members (need Adult Ed/study opportunities, Bible Study)
- Caretaking of members (recognizing needs that are not economic)
- Limitations of a ½ time pastor that affect the above
- Lack of secretarial help also (no personal phone response, etc)
- Busy lives/time issues on part of everyone

#### Opportunities

- openness to new ideas, little "red tape"
- open facility—ability to "host" events, desire to host joint event with neighboring churches
- Maximizing our partnerships
- Manse—possibilities for ministry as well as source of income (rent)
- Develop regular fellowship /study opportunities (besides potluck) in homes. Small Group Bible Studies
- Need to advertise—improve our signage, take advantage of corner location
- many visitors in worship



### Threats/Vulnerabilities

- need to grow larger/"critical mass"
- \$\$ Roof repair
- Lack of and need to develop more male leadership
- burn out –busy lives/great need/a few doing a lot!
- Need greater focus on Spiritual Disciplines (confession, etc)
- Ongoing concern for developing theological depth and balance
- Find ways to energize/feed the body in order to fulfill the Great Commission
- Do we have something to evangelize people into? (need balance between a community of joy and freedom vs. burden of responsibility for social justice)
- Concern for future accountability among members and staff
- need for better communication between pastor/"staff"/partners/session/congregation

### FUTURE CONCERNS

- That the congregation reflect the growing diversity in the community
- Develop stronger congregational leadership
- Need pastor who supports current programs/partnerships
- Develop greater connection with our neighbors, with our "non-neighbors" who do not live in WC, And with the larger community of faith (Presbyterian and beyond!)
- Continue networking with PCUSA churches in our presbytery
- Need creative leaders who will leverage all resources (people/finances/spiritual gifts/etc)

### GOD'S DREAM FOR MVPC...(in no particular order...)

- Brokering the manse for ministry purposes
  - Develop another SUIC-type of program to develop young leaders
  - Find ways to give our partners more visibility
  - Need to be "seen" in the community—improve/replace our sign
  - Improve "advertising". Develop logo?
  - With regard to our partnerships: Are we gaining more than we are giving?  
How can we function from a perspective of plenty vs. what we lack?
  - Need clear expectations of groups using facilities
  - Need clear understandings of partner relationships—with regard to leaders and functions, etc.
  - More Bible Studies—possibly with other churches in WC?
  - Develop ministry avenues beyond children and youth
  - Improved communications—available in multiple formats—re: needs/activities/work of elders/events—perhaps including a Community Bulletin Board, etc
  - Garden become a community pea patch with a knowledgeable person "in charge"
  - Develop more partnerships with WC churches
  - Bridge-building to UGM families and worship, etc.
  - personal response when people call the church office
  - support group for single parent families
  - Greater shared leadership vs. a few doing a lot; how to train and deploy leaders, invite wider participation?
- Participants in the discussions over 4 separate sessions were associated with MVPC for a range of time: One year (1), two years (4), three years (3), Five years (3), Six years (2), Fourteen years (1), Fifteen years (1), Thirty years + (5)

Five others contributed, however the length of their association with MVPC was not noted.