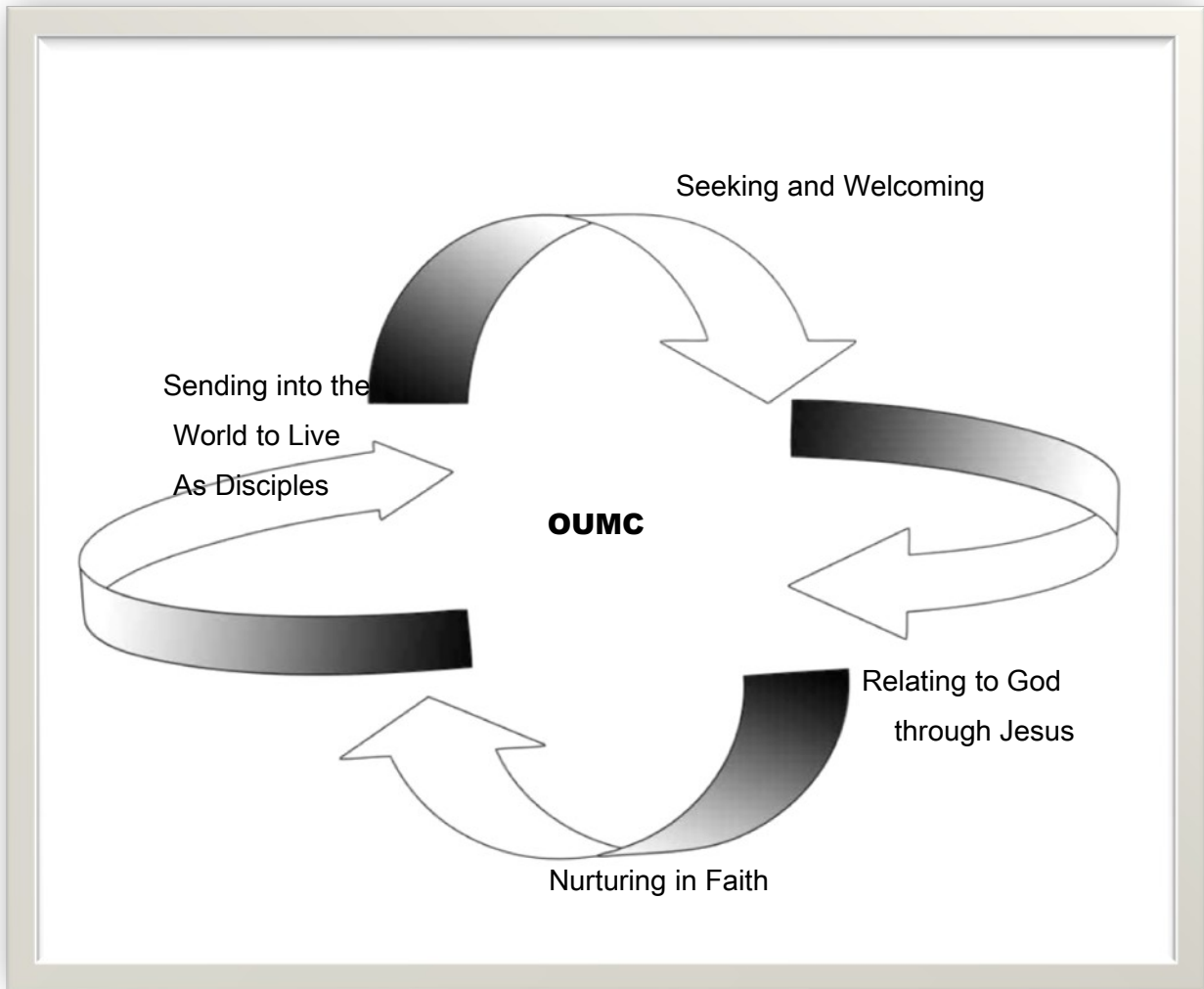


OUR VALUES (graphic adapted from
Guidelines to Ministry 2009-2012: Church Council—Connecting Vision and Ministry in Your Church)



The **MISSION** (KIDS) of Oakton United Methodist Church is to:

- Know Jesus as Christ
- Invite others to follow Him
- Develop devoted disciples
- Serve those in need



The **VISION** (PEC) of Oakton United Methodist Church is to:

- Prayerfully devote our lives to worship, spiritual maturity, nurturing one another, sharing our faith, and reaching out to those in need both locally and globally
- Express ourselves as a dynamic congregation, abundant in the love and joy of Jesus Christ, whom we follow as our Example and Redeemer.
- Connect with the Christian ministries of our church in an imaginative and inviting way

OUR CORE VALUES:

Our understanding of our mission and vision at Oakton United Methodist Church grows out of our core values as a connectional church with other United Methodist ministries and our understanding of what Christian discipleship means. Our heritage as United Methodists includes the Wesleyan understanding of God's sanctifying grace. John Wesley, our Methodist founder, referred to the life of discipleship as sanctification, as Christian perfection, and as holiness of heart and life.

Our Church is more than a structure; it is a living organism. The United Methodist *Discipline* describes our mission to proclaim the gospel and to welcome people into the body of Christ, to lead people to a commitment to God through Jesus Christ, to nurture them in Christian living by various means of grace, and to send persons into the world as agents of Jesus Christ (§122 *UM Book of Discipline*). Thus, through our church as a Christian body, this very relational mission continues. Our current church structure reflects the values that we hold as essential for the execution of our mission and vision.

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs" (§120).

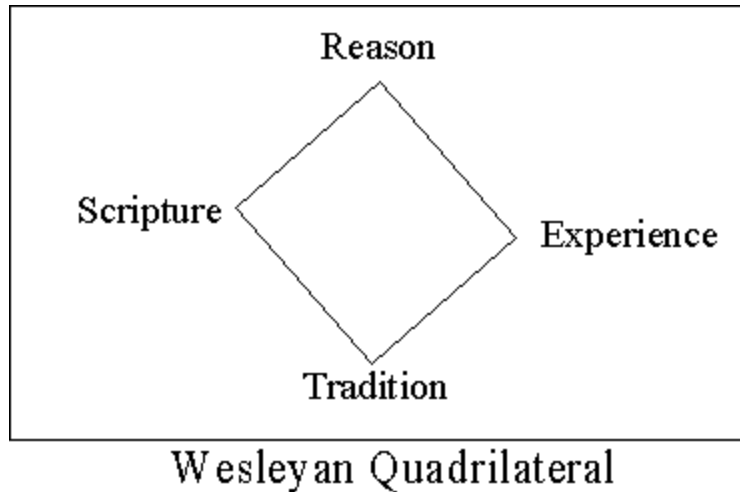
Important Biblical texts that help us to understand what we value as followers of Jesus include:

- Matthew 5–7 (The Sermon on the Mount)
- Matthew 16:24-26 (Jesus' call to deny self)
- John 3:1-20 (God's self-giving love for the world)
- Mark 12:28-31 (The Great Commandment)
- Micah 6:6-8 (God's call to justice)
- Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)

John Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. Scripture is primary, revealing the Word of God 'so far as it is necessary for our salvation. (*UMC Book of Discipline*)

"...the Wesleyan quadrilateral provides us with a bridge enabling us to carry our basic Christian beliefs into the world. It offers us a way to practice our faith and grow in our discipleship in the midst of our evolving postmodern context." *Our Formative Foursome: The Wesleyan Quadrilateral and Postmodern Discipleship* by Elaine A. Robinson

(see graphic on next page)



The strategic plan for discipleship through our congregation serves as a road map for mission and ministry. Our mission, vision and organization reflect these valued ministries:

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Within the context of our Church's mission and vision, the church council has primary responsibility for creating and sustaining the congregation's plan for discipleship. This responsibility has several aspects: (1) work with the pastor to build a shared vision for discipleship; (2) plan ministries of worship, nurture, outreach, and witness that help the congregation live its God-given vision; (3) ensure that these ministries are aligned with the mission of disciple making; (4) allocate human and material resources for implementing the ministry plan; (5) provide an administrative infrastructure; (6) evaluate the effectiveness of the ministry plan; and (7) act as the administrative agency of the charge conference.

Worship ministries works with the pastor and the music leaders in planning for and preparing the worship services, including the weekly Sunday services as well as worship for special seasons of the church year. Worship services are the primary time when faith communities come together to praise God. In worship, we remember again who we are: a community shaped by God's incredible love, grace, and forgiveness. We rehearse what we believe as Christians through the stories of our faith. We will order and conduct the worship service thoughtfully, with attention to the needs of the congregation and community. To this end we value the importance of the music ministry, the reading and preaching of the Word, and the sacraments of our faith—baptism and Communion. As United Methodists we believe that in baptism and Communion, in the common elements—water, bread, and grape juice—God is present in a unique way. These physical elements can reach people in ways that words never will.

Nurture ministries include Sunday school and other groups, and other settings for spiritual formation. These ministries assist persons of all ages in developing and deepening their relationship with God. We provide opportunities for people to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. We will also provide a supportive, caring community for people who face a variety of issues on a daily basis. These ministries will focus on the Bible, prayer, or other aspects of the Christian faith, or as well as on issues of daily life, such as divorce, grief, addiction, or parenting. One particular age group that we desire to provide a focus for is children, in addition to other age populations.

Outreach ministries include responding to the needs of others. When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." He then went on to say, "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31). Nurture and worship ministries help us love God. Outreach ministries help us love others. They are faith in action. These

ministries assist persons of all ages in developing and deepening their relationship with the larger human community.

Witness ministries provide a vehicle for proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to a broken and hurting world. These ministries enable people to pay attention to the active presence of God in their lives and to develop language for talking about their experience of God. These ministries, also assist people in listening to the stories of others who need to hear a word of hope, love, and grace. These ministries include our congregation's plans for evangelism; and lay speaking ministries.

Stephen ministers are Congregation members who are trained to provide one-to-one Christian care to persons in need on behalf of the congregation.

LEADERSHIP AND ALIGNMENT

We value the means for creating and implementing a strategy plan that enables our congregation to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We have established several **administrative groups** to ensure that the congregation effectively uses its physical, financial, and human resources.

PASTOR

The Pastor works in four primary arenas, traditionally described as Word, Sacrament, Service, and Order. The Pastor lives out these responsibilities as worship leader, preacher, and teacher; administrative leader; "keeper" of the vision; equipper of laity; and community minister. Through worship, administration, leader development, and team building, our pastor works with leadership to develop and implement our congregation's plan for making disciples of Jesus Christ. Along with the lay leader, the Council and the pastor form the core leadership team for the congregation.

LAY LEADERS (2)

Lay leaders serve as advocates and models of faithful Christian discipleship. These key leaders understand what it means to be a part of the ministry of all Christians and that all persons are called by God to ministry. Sometimes people associate ministry with ordination; but from a biblical perspective, ministry is the work of the "saints"—those individuals who have experienced the love and grace of God in their lives and who seek to follow Jesus Christ in all that they do. (See Ephesians 4 for an inspiring illustration of what it means to "equip the saints for ministry.")

STAFF/PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS

The staff/pastor-parish relations committee functions somewhat like an office of human resources. This required administrative group confers with your district superintendent on all matters related to the pastor appointed to our congregation. The group helps develop job descriptions for any fulltime or part-time staff that may be employed by the congregation, and they participate in the annual evaluation of both pastor(s) and staff. The relationship between staff and ministry is critical to the health and vitality of our congregation. The Council and the chairperson of the S/PPRC work together to support healthy teams (whether pastor and employed staff or pastor and volunteers) that are focused on the mission of making disciples. Specifically, the church council makes recommendations to the charge conference concerning the pastoral and staff salaries and acts on recommendations from the S/PPRC on pastoral housing and other pastoral support needs (§252.4.d and e).

TRUSTEES

The board of trustees is another administrative committee required by the *Discipline*. The board of trustees is vested with the authority to manage the property and facilities of the congregation, handle routine maintenance, ensure the safety and accessibility of the physical plant and grounds, and modify or purchase equipment or the building in accordance with the *Discipline* and any legal requirements. Along with the church council, the board of trustees has the legal obligation to see that the congregation operates within local codes and state laws governing such entities as churches. The board of trustees is required to monitor and manage

the insurance requirements of the congregation in the areas of fire, theft, public liability, and fidelity, among others. The trustees are authorized to receive gifts, subject to direction by the charge conference. The board of trustees serves as consultant to the church council on legal matters, insurance, and anything otherwise related to the physical property of the church and is required to submit an annual report to the charge conference. Trustees are also responsible for a yearly church accessibility audit.

FINANCE

The chair of this committee, the church treasurer, and the financial secretary are members of the church council. This committee is responsible for creating a budget for the ministry of the congregation and for developing a plan to raise adequate funds in support of the congregation's needs, both routine and special. The financial secretary records income to the church, while disbursements are made and recorded by the treasurer. Periodic reports are prepared by the treasurer and submitted to the church council for approval. The finance committee serves as the consultant to the church council on financial matters.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Coordinators insure that adequate and appropriate messages for all ministry events and activities and other items of publicity are exchanged in a timely fashion through our bulletin, newsletter, email communications, USPS postal services, newspaper publicity and website.

OAKTON CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL BOARD

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP (COLL)

The pastor leads this team in the following opportunities:

- **identify** the gifts and strengths of persons in the congregation who may be effective in carrying out the values, mission and vision of the congregation
- **develop** their gifts and skills and nurture them in their mission or ministry roles
- **deploy** persons according to their gifts and passion in areas of service within the church, community, and world (see also ¶125.)
- **evaluate** the effectiveness of their service and provide necessary training and support
- **monitor** the progress of their development and celebrate their accomplishments and service.