

**A Vision for the Coming Years
University Lutheran Church of Hope
Fall 2018**

In the fall of 2015, we created vision goals entitled Igniting Our Life Together. Since then the fire within us has been set and is burning strongly. The challenge now before us is to stoke the flame. These vision goals reflect the evolution of our efforts to faithfully guide our ministry in the coming years.

Fueling Our Life Together

As a community of faith we aspire to these goals:

Cultivate deep roots in our neighborhood and the University community, by actively making our walls porous.

- Build authentic long-term relationships that center our neighbors' interests, while understanding and addressing our individual and collective privilege. We will listen to each other's stories, seek to fulfill the physical and spiritual needs in our neighborhood, and build relational power to pursue justice and equity grounded in the Gospel.
- Commit to sharing our space, time, and resources with our neighboring communities as an expression of Christ's radical hospitality. We will deepen our involvement in the Sanctuary Movement, and continue to open our doors to individuals and groups in the community.
- Renew and expand our commitment to ministry with young adults and students, including Lutheran Campus Ministry. We will seek to meet the needs for wholeness and healing, especially focusing on issues around food insecurity, mental health, and spirituality.

Embrace all persons throughout their life journey in a community of love, respect, and acceptance.

- Through faith formation experiences for people at every age (children, youth, adults, elders), accompany one another through the complexities and joys of life, fully integrating our physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual selves.
- Help one another explore scripture, know our traditions, practice spirituality, center the voices of marginalized people, respond to the needs of our world, and follow the call to be "bearers of God's justice-making love"¹.
- Be true to the journey of faith where there is safe space for doubt, questioning, curiosity, and genuine grace.

Fuel authentic worship and deepen spirituality.

- Led by the Holy Spirit, we encounter God in varied and participatory worship experiences. We will build on a strong Lutheran liturgical tradition, celebrate a thoughtfully eclectic style, explore progressive Christ-centered theology, and seek expansive images of God that engage the arts and our whole selves.
- Deepen spirituality. We will actively engage one another and the world in small group encounters, in the work of social justice, in study of the Bible, and in integration of faith and life.

¹ Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia. *Resisting Structural Evil*. Fortress Press, Minneapolis. 2013.