

**A Vision for the Coming Years**  
**University Lutheran Church of Hope**  
**Spring 2021 - May 18, 2021**

*In the fall of 2015, we created vision goals entitled Igniting Our Life Together. Over the years this vision evolved and in the fall of 2018 a new version of our vision goals confirmed our intention to stoke the flames. As we emerge from COVID-19 in the spring and summer 2021 and continue to discern the significance of this long season on so many levels, we're committing to this vision in renewed ways.*

**Opening 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, mutually support the physical and spiritual needs in our neighborhood, and build relational power to make Gospel-grounded justice and equity a way of life.
- Commit to sharing our space, time, and resources with our neighboring communities as an expression of Christ's radical hospitality. We will continue our involvement in the Sanctuary Movement, and renew our commitment to opening 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, younger adults, 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, discern the gifts and burdens of our traditions and history, 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"<sup>[1]</sup>.
- 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, blending in person and online opportunities. 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.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia. *Resisting Structural Evil*. Fortress Press, Minneapolis. 2013.