



Discernment Steering Team (Draft)

Vision: What is God's particular call to/dream for us as Christ Church Cathedral?

Christ Church Cathedral is a spiritual hub of transformation for our city and diocese, following Jesus Christ in practicing radical hospitality, working for justice, and proclaiming God's peace, reconciliation, and love.

Mission: How do we live into and work toward the vision on a daily basis?

(To be developed by Dean & Vestry)

Pillars of the Plan:

Convener/connector for our city and diocese

1. Serve as a **principal catalyst** in gathering neighbors on the Circle and local nonprofits for important conversations, particularly focusing on issues affecting our neighbors in the margins.
2. Take on a **greater leadership role** in hosting diocesan trainings and events, especially those that focus on equity, anti-racism, and inclusion work--collaborate more and sooner.
3. Serve as the **primary connector** between downtown congregations (both diocesan and ecumenical).
4. Build **better relationships** with and (in some cases) make amends with other congregations where we have been culpable for harm, including systemic racism.
5. **CHILDREN & YOUTH:** Be a primary gathering place/launching point for **diocesan-wide youth hands-on social justice activities**.

Radical hospitality

1. Regularly offer "**outward facing**" **activities** (liturgies, activities, public art) on our lawn.
2. Communicate our missional priorities, Baptismal Covenant, and bilingual identity through more **creative use of lawn, signage, and buildings**.
3. Invite nonprofits, partners, and neighborhood groups to **use our buildings** on a more regular basis.
4. Enhance our Sunday **Community Breakfast** partnerships to offer social services resources, music/art, and spiritual companionship to guests.
5. Intentionally make strong connections with the **millennials** and **empty nesters** living in the Mile Square neighborhood and with the broader **Latino community in Indianapolis**, meeting them where they already gather and connect rather than expecting them to come to us.
6. Renew our Sunday "**guest experience**" by refreshing our systems of welcome and integration (e.g. ushers, greeters, newcomer integration/connections).
7. Reinvent our **meal services** to connect with our missional priorities (see below in Faith in Action).
CHILDREN & YOUTH: Make intentional connections with downtown and near-Northside families who may be attracted to our social justice and missional values.

Deep beauty of God (Worship/Music/Arts)

1. **CHILDREN & YOUTH:** Reinvent our **chorister program** into a vibrant, every day, after-school program that builds relationships with local public schools to offer music, activities, homework help, and food.
2. Forge stronger partnerships with **local arts organizations** and regularly feature local artists' work in the Cathedral building and on our lawn.
3. Be intentional about integrating **diverse music and more experiential liturgical practices that appeal to the senses** into our regular worship.
4. Reinvent our **concert series** with stronger local partnerships with arts organizations.
5. Explore possibilities for adding **an additional weekend worship service** that is different from current offerings.

Spirituality formed in community

1. Regularly offer both **traditional and non-traditional learning opportunities and specialty liturgies** (e.g. Ashes to Go, Bible study, EFM, Pub Theology) in locations outside of the church, both downtown and in "satellite" locations (e.g. 86th Street, Irvington, south side).
2. Reshape **adult formation classes** to meet the needs of diverse learning styles, languages, entry levels, and schedules. Create more holistic opportunities to learn, share a meal, and serve together.
3. Develop an **intentional ministry of small groups** that meet in people's homes and in the community to build fellowship and spirituality within and among our entire congregation.
4. **CHILDREN & YOUTH:** Completely **overhaul our children and youth formation programs**, keeping in mind that some of the formation may happen during weekdays with our chorister program.

Living our faith in action

1. Narrow and refocus our outreach partnerships to **three key priorities** that directly affect the neighborhoods and people around us. Create meaningful, transformative opportunities **for our congregation to engage in a hands-on way with local nonprofit partner(s)** working in three of these areas (to be determined through congregation feedback):
 - a. *homelessness*
 - b. *immigration*
 - c. *dismantling/disrupting systemic racism*
 - d. *food insecurity in the downtown area*
 - e. *environmental stewardship*
2. Align our **Covenant Grants** program and our **advocacy partnership funding** with our three missional priorities (above).
3. Invest a portion of our **endowment** in missional-related investments (that provide both an economic and social return) that align with the priorities above.
4. Refocus our **Global Ministry** to work with Indianapolis-area migrants.
5. **CHILDREN AND YOUTH:** Create stronger opportunities for youth to activate their passions and be leaders in outreach.