

Aligning Ourselves with Vision and Mission

Vermilion River District
Illinois Great Rivers Conference, United Methodist Church

Our Shared Vision

All the physically and spiritually hungry people of our world feasting on God's abundant grace at God's table so that they experience God's unconditional love for them, are formed in that love, and are sent to live and share that love with the individuals and institutions of our world.

Our One Mission

The purpose of our annual conference is to form disciples of Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God (The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2004, Par. 601). Therefore our mission as a district is:

*Equipping and Encouraging the Faith Communities of the Vermilion River District
In **Reaching and Receiving** those outside of any faith community, and
In **Raising and Releasing** Faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ*

Characteristics of Faithful Disciples

Faithful Disciples who are "Thinking and Acting Like Jesus" demonstrate at least these characteristics:

- Dedication to Jesus Christ
- Love of God, Love of Self, Love of Others
- Openness and Responsiveness to God's Holy Spirit
- Empowered by Scripture, Informed by Reason, Experience, and Christian Tradition
- Active Prayer Life
- Regular Participation in Worship
- Growing as a Faithful Disciple
- Being What God Has Gifted and Called Each of Us to Be
- Valuing Every Person and Faith Community
- Honesty and Integrity
- Hospitality
- Generous Spirit
- Faithful Stewardship
- Commitment to Loving, Caring Relationships
- Compassion and Mercy
- Serving Others
- Teamwork
- Excellence
- Sacrifice
- _____

Avenues to Fulfilling Vision and Mission

Reaching and Receiving Those Outside of Any Faith Community

- Equipping and encouraging every faith community to be inviting, welcoming and growing
- Helping faith communities in being open, understanding, and responsive to people's needs
- Facilitating faith communities in discerning God's vision for their ministry

Raising and Releasing Faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ

- Empowering faith communities to nurture individuals in their journey of faith
- Informing and encouraging district faith communities in ways to discover, develop, and deploy the gifts and talents of individuals in their faith community
- Creating a District-wide environment for lifelong growth as disciples and as servant leaders

Reclaiming and Re-strengthening Our Connection

- Identifying and celebrating the value and blessing of every person and faith community in the district
- Utilizing ministry area groupings for developing fellowship and enhancing ministry effectiveness
- Conferencing and Leadership Growth Opportunities through district, sub-district, and ministry area gatherings

Hoped for Outcomes

1. Every church with an intentional plan for reaching out to and developing relationships with persons who are not currently a part of any church including those who are not like us.
2. Every church with a disciple making plan that raises vital followers of Jesus Christ.
3. Every church with a hands-on outreach effort to the needy of their community and the larger world.
4. Every church linked in prayer and ministry with our sister conference in Liberia.
5. Every church experiencing the power of God's Holy Spirit and seeing persons' lives transformed through Jesus Christ.