

## *Interim Process Update*

from Pastor Chris Hagen

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Special Congregation Meeting it was decided to move ahead with the calling of a senior pastor. With this congregation decision we can continue recruiting and forming a Call Committee, which will be elected in October.

In this newsletter you will also see an updated interim timeline. Assembling of information for the *Ministry Site Profile* (the congregation's "résumé") will be done by a separate task force.

Through the participation of 72 members and by the facilitation of Connie Bernardy, the *Vision Summit* on May 15<sup>th</sup> resulted in a couple of strategic directions for the next five years:

- *Making strategic changes to retain our members and grow our base in order to help people develop a personal relationship with Jesus—especially revitalizing and restructuring our worship services to attract new members.*
- *Strengthening relationships in our congregation and in our diverse community—especially through healthy communication, rest and play.*
- *Providing services and resources to our community, our children, and our aging population—recognizing, interacting with, and learning about our ethnically diverse community.*

Several issues still need conversation among this membership. These issues have risen through demographic research, discussion with school district employees, experiences of members, the Vision Summit process, and insights from community experts. They are:

1. *Ethnic diversity of our neighborhoods.* Should St. Philip's become a more ethnically diverse congregation that reflects the surrounding neighborhoods?

2. *Increasing poverty in our neighborhoods.* How shall St. Philip's live out in the future its commitment to those struggling financially?

3. *Collaboration with schools.* St. Philip's has connections with the school district through its members and its proximity to local schools. How can this congregation partner with the school district to best serve the families of school children?

4. *Aging population.* The growing segment of the population around St. Philip's is those people in retirement. Baby-boomers are entering retirement age. Demographic and economic growth will be oriented around the aging. Is this a ministry opportunity for St. Philip's?

5. *Senior pastor.* What is God's intent for St. Philip's future, and what kind of senior pastor will best help get us there? Identifying the senior pastor skills and style needed for St. Philip's future will mostly be through the work of the *Ministry Site Profile* Task Force and the Call Committee. They will be soliciting information from the members, so please begin thinking about what God is asking of this church, and what kind of senior pastor *God* wants here.

This fall activities leading up to calling the next senior pastor will go quickly. Critical decisions will need to be made by this congregation this fall regarding St. Philip's future. Please take part in the discussions and decisions. Please implore the Holy Spirit to guide them.