

A Vision of Growth for the United Methodist Church of Geneva

We are a congregation that invites the Holy Spirit to grow our discipleship in:

Sophisticated Spiritual Formation for all ages

We believe all people need a vital relationship with God.

Our people practice disciplines of worship, prayer, Scripture reading and study, small groups of accountability and support, and retreats so that “God” for them is more than a name, idea, or abstraction – God is a reality, a presence, and a power in their lives. Just as we always are working on our relationships with people, we always are working to further develop our relationship with God through Christ. Our congregational culture will expect people to mature their faith, deepen their spiritual roots, and expand their ability to identify God’s presence in their lives. As seminaries train ordained ministers for churches, our congregation trains lay ministers in the marketplace who bring Christ’s ministry to a broken and needy world. Our members know no vacation from intentional and disciplined spiritual growth which equips them to answer Christ’s call to minister with him.

Hands-On Ministry

We believe all people need to contribute to God’s kingdom of peace and justice.

The Holy Spirit propels each worshipper to participate in direct Christian ministry with other people. Teaching Sunday School (children, youth, and adults classes), leading small covenant groups, working at Lazarus or Hesed House, building with Habitat for Humanity, being a Court Appointed Special Advocate, calling on those hospitalized or shut in, relating to someone incarcerated in prison, delivering meals to people just released from the hospital, organizing Bible studies at work, or participating in peace witnesses are examples of a much longer list of hands-on ministry. Face-to-face, person-to-person, direct engagement in acts of compassion, mercy, justice and peace form the core of this growth in faith. The experience of ministry in the world drives people into worship to praise God for what they experience and drives them into spiritual formation to cope with what they experience.

Life-Situation Ministry

We believe all people need God’s grace (and are most open to it) at transition times.

Our nurturing and outreach ministries focus on the pivotal life situations people navigate (rather than on program areas). Transition moments – marriage, grieving, birth, children all in school, children become adolescents, empty nesting, parents becoming frail, chronic or terminal illness, divorce, job loss, move to a new community, career change – are times when people are more open to a renewed dialogue with God and to connection to a faith community. Our congregation is agile and focused in providing spiritual care and relationship for people in these transitions, mediating God’s grace when there is special need and openness.

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Faith Sharing

We believe all people need to know and share the true foundation of life.

Our people verbally witness to their faith in Jesus Christ. Our congregation trains, encourages, models, and celebrates people who tell how God and church make a difference to them. This testimony occurs primarily in relationships we already have and in natural conversations that emerge with neighbors, family members, colleagues, classmates, and teammates. We practice relational evangelism – sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in relationships that will bear the weight of conversation about what really matters.