

Acts 2 Church Ministry Action Plan
Charge Conference 2006

Church Duke Memorial United Methodist Church **Date** August 28, 2006

"...by the Annual Conference of 2008, I want us to be able to identify, by name, 200 Acts 2 Churches in this conference! Churches that have all four of these qualities functioning well in the life of the Body. Churches that have decided to reach the lost, the unchurched, the de-churched — to reach children, youth, Hispanics and Latinos — not counting the cost or sacrifice involved.

"Churches that have prayer-based, Spirit-filled, quality worship services. By the way, our 2005 statistics also show that our average Sunday morning worship attendance is down 2,796 persons! That fact should cause us to ask ourselves several serious questions about how we do worship, what we are or are not teaching about commitment and if real relationships actually exist.

"By 2008 we will name 200 churches that are teaching their members to go deeper and not just wider. Churches that are serious about every member being in small groups where they are supported, encouraged and challenged to grow in Christ. Churches that are helping their members understand the gifts of the Spirit and the role of those gifts in building up the Body of Christ. Churches that forge strong, full partnerships between the clergy and laity. Churches that want a leader to equip and empower them and not do their ministry for them. Churches that want to be challenged and not coddled.

"In 2008 we want to name 200 churches that are risk-takers in attacking poverty, seeking justice, caring for the needy — eager to give a hand-up and not just a hand-out."

—Bishop Gwinn, State of the Church Address, Annual Conference 2006

Our Congregation's Response to the Bishop's challenge is...

I. RADICAL HOSPITALITY

A. Current programs and activities

Passing the Peace, weekly greeters, registration in attendance notebooks, doorstep visits at homes on Sunday afternoons, telephone calls, postcards, and other mailings are all part of a deliberate process to help guests experience Christian hospitality. We also have Lemonade on the Lawn following worship in the spring and fall. A Mothers of Preschoolers group (MOPS) and a Parents Morning Out program seeks to involve those parents and their families in the life of our church.

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

We are hopeful that Soul Café – a coffeehouse in a new accessible location – will become a community center and another port of entry for our church.

II. PASSIONATE WORSHIP

A. Current programs and activities

(over)

We strive for each worship experience to include a biblical, relevant and engaging sermon, inspiring music, an interactive children's message and community prayer concerns.

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

We believe that the development of strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion instrumental ensembles will enrich our worship.

III. INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION —For all Ages from Cradle to Grave

A. Current programs and activities

Dedicated Sunday School teachers and music leaders facilitate a variety of Christian education opportunities for children, youth and adults on Sunday mornings. A growing prayer ministry involves various prayer groups and prayer chains.

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

We plan for a variety of spiritual formation opportunities on Wednesday evenings in the Soul Café setting – utilizing Bible study, book studies, thematic presentations, crafts and music. Three children's Sunday School classes will utilize the new iliveBIG children's curriculum by Cokesbury.

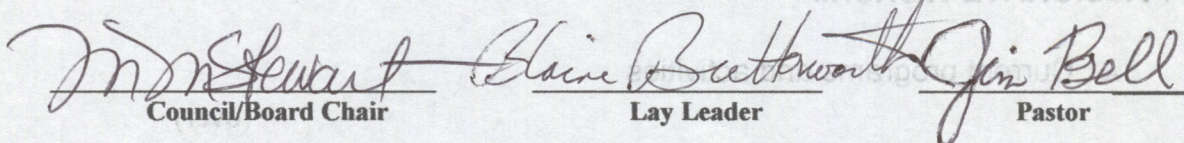
IV. RISK-TAKING MISSION AND MINISTRY TO THE WORLD

A. Current programs and activities

We periodically sponsor youth and adult mission work teams to a variety of locations. We are one of eleven churches that host the Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network. This mission project requires approximately eighty volunteers every week that we provide a home for three homeless families.

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

In conjunction with the development of our church's mission and vision, we are exploring ways to partner with the Congregation at Duke Chapel to be in ministry with residents of the West End neighborhood.


Council/Board Chair Lay Leader Pastor