

Visioning Small Group
 Saturday, September 19, 2009
 The Linstrom's

Attendees: Greg Halvorsen Schreck, Karen Halvorsen Schreck, Leo Lanzillo, Elizabeth Lanzillo, Gretchen Kenower, Peter Vagt, Virginia Vagt, Jane Zaccharia, Reeny Linstrom, Jeff Linstrom.

Facilitator & Margarita Maker: Jeff Linstrom

We had a wonderful group and a lot of fun! It was my first time making margaritas so I was nervous—but the attendees all said they hit the spot (and assisted the visioning process). Obviously, the group consisted of very active members. I was impressed with the level of thought behind the ideas presented and the great conversation the ideas generated. I have used Ginnie Judd's format to set forth the ideas from our gathering (thank you Ginnie). If you want my margarita recipe, please send me an e-mail jwlinstrom@yahoo.com.

I should point out that certain of the ideas are inconsistent with one another—we made no attempt as a group to weed out ideas or prioritize any of them.

Category	Idea
Outreach	St. Marks should host a Festival of Faith and Art for artists, writers and the community at large.
Facility	Greg has a proposed redesign for the front wall with the cross—he has a photo that shows what he thinks the wall should look like.
Outreach	St. Mark's should become a church known in the community for the arts through various art outreach programs such as an art gallery, a drama troupe, a children's choir—activities that are open to the community and not just the parish to participate in.
Outreach	St. Mark's should develop a pre-school open to the community and should strive to build it into a school through grade 3.
Worship	St. Mark's should expand its worship services to include a Saturday night family oriented service and/or a Sunday night service.
Facility	St. Mark's should change the 3 black ceiling covers near the alter to something more aesthetic looking.
Outreach	St. Mark's should provide or support rehabilitation services for the Homeless-services designed to address the needs of those that are homeless for non-financial reasons (perhaps in coordination with Bridge Communities). We should help not just shelter and feed the participants but change their lives for the better.
Outreach	St. Mark's should use its facilities to bring in recognized adult focused faith based speakers on issues of interest for the surrounding community

Category	Idea
Worship	St. Mark's should have more than one music option for worship. Different services could have different musical styles. Our group had various views on the music to be presented ranging from alternative and more modern to a more intense focus on traditional music (with an emphasis on improving the traditional music offered)
Worship	St. Mark's should improve its choir and make it more challenging
Worship	St. Mark's should incorporate more musical instruments into its service
Worship/Outreach/Facility	St. Mark's should finish its organ installation and become recognized in the Diocese and the community as having a musical tradition and program that is the best in the area
Outreach	St. Mark's should host a choral/organ marathon open to the community
Worship	St. Mark's should use less Latin anthems.
Worship	St. Mark's should open its music program up to parishioners to have more people within the congregation with musical talents participate in the service
Worship	St. Mark's should reinstitute compline perhaps with other churches and invite the community
Staff/Communications/Outreach	St. Mark's should have a paid position for marketing/communication to coordinate how it communicates internally and externally. Perhaps this position could also have as one of its functions to canvas the community for all of St. Mark's outreach programs and make sure we are coordinating as much as possible with all similar programs.
Worship	St. Mark's should deepen its Lenten program—offer more Lent programs
Worship	St. Mark's should find ways to increase the contemplative focus of its service by finding more “quiet” perhaps by a bell that is rung at the beginning of service to create some time of silence before service begins, perhaps by finding a way to present less announcements during service. An increased effort on a weekly basis to aid the contemplative side of life and worship could be lead by someone.
Worship/Focus	St. Mark's should become a center for quiet prayer in the community.
Worship/Focus	St. Mark's should not contribute to a world that is too busy but should find a way as an institution to have more happen with less. We should have weeks during the year where there are no activities—certain Sundays where nothing happens but worship. We should have less activities that are more focused.

Category	Idea
Communication	St. Mark's should have a better communications strategy that is more focused on getting people the information they need. We should have a more organized location for signing up for activities.
Worship	St. Mark's liturgy should exist "outside of time" .
Worship	St. Mark's services should reinstate "comfortable words"
Leadership	St. Mark's should provide its leaders with help so they don't feel burned out by involvement—perhaps by having meals delivered, etc
Leadership	St. Mark's should have a program for leadership development to improve the work done by its leaders and all leaders should be debriefed on a formal basis to capture how we can improve on all matters.
Membership	St. Mark's must strive to represent the demographics of our area—e.g., we have less singles than we should for the area
Facilities	St. Mark's should clothe or change the white marble at the front
Youth	St. Mark's should have a youth group that is recognized in the area by youths as a place to come—it is a vibrant group that brings in our parish youth and they bring their friends—perhaps it is tied in with the Deanery
Youth	St. Mark's should use Cursillo or Happening
General	St. Mark's should increase its involvement with the Diocese on all fronts
International	St. Mark's should have some ties with England.
Facilities	St. Mark's should sell the rectory
Outreach	St. Mark's should have yearly interfaith dialogue and journeys
Communication	St. Mark's should have more stories about its own parishioners and their activities in the Post-Mark
Leadership	St. Mark's should try and have all members involved at some level of activity
Outreach	St. Mark's should have mission trips locally or nearby for youth so there can be greater follow up and involvement
Outreach	St, Mark's should have a Harvest Festival--
Facilities	St. Mark's should bring back some concept like Lions and Lambs
Facilities	St. Mark's should have a bell that we can ring
Outreach	St. Mark's should host PADS one night a week
Outreach	St. Mark's should support increased tutoring at St. Gregory's
Worship	St Mark's should increase the time between services to deal with the parking issue
Facilities	St. Mark's should use the Library as a Library and develop other space to use for meetings
International	St. Mark's should expand its Mexico mission, develop it more fully
Worship	St. Mark's should have a grieving ministry