



Monte Vista Christian Church 2024 Long-Term Revisioning

Breaking Through – Reclaiming
Our Future

Vision Team Members: Anne Loveless, Bonnie Sanchez, Gerri Warner, and Rev. Dawn
also, Mike Pickard during early stages and Matt Denman through October

2019 Long-Term Visioning Endeavor:

In March 2019, a Vision Team was formed and commissioned to develop a plan with input from the congregation to “Step out and claim our future”. The resulting Vision Plan was presented to the Board at the November 2019 meeting. The Board approved the Plan and recommended it to the Congregation. At the December 8, 2019 Congregational Meeting, the Vision Plan was approved. The Plan included six ministry areas of focus: Worship, Congregational Vitality, Christian Formation, Community Outreach, Stewardship, and Leadership Development.

The Covid Pandemic that erupted in March 2020 interfered with the ability to gather in-person which disrupted the ability to implement much of the Plan. Primary successes of the 2019 Vision Plan include:

- ✓ replacement of the decades-old inefficient HVAC system [during the Pandemic while the work would not interrupt regular activities],
- ✓ renovation of living room/library including updating lights and adding mirrors for wedding preparation (funded by the Turner/O'Rourke families in memory of Dr. Robert and Dorothy Turner),
- ✓ upgrades to lighting in the narthex,
- ✓ becoming more socially engaged with the local community [developing collaborative partnerships with other organizations including Nob Hill Neighborhood Association, strengthening existing relationships including with ABQ FaithWorks, intentionality in creating safe space for our LGBTQ+ siblings to experience the inclusive love of God in Christ through MVCC's hospitality, and post-Pandemic outreach with the unhoused],
- ✓ building community outside of Sunday morning worship (through Social Justice events, picnic, and other events)
- ✓ connecting members to faith formation and education through study groups [virtually during the Pandemic], and annual all-day leadership retreat [for spiritual formation, relationship building, team development, and direction for the serving year].

2024 Vision Plan:

Motto (short):

Where heart, mind, and service join together in Christ.

Mission Statement (brief):

To be a thriving inclusive faith community that demonstrates true discipleship and a passion for justice on a collective spiritual journey.

Vision Statement (longer with more description):

We strive to cultivate a nurturing environment where the love of Christ can work within and through our community. The foundation of who we are is built on the teachings and example of Jesus the Christ. Whether it's participation in the life of the congregation or in service beyond the doors of the church, MVCC works to meet people where they are with the inclusive love of God that we know in Christ.

The following goals/focus areas were identified as a result of the input from the congregation through questionnaires, at the Vision Team's Roundtable Discussion opportunities, and verbally shared in other venues.

Goals/Focus Areas Identified:

i. Spirited Music Ministry

The congregation was clear that there is a continued commitment to a strong music ministry at MVCC. There is a deep desire to have uplifting, spirit-filled music with a variety of genres such as gospel, jazz, and folk music. Includes our choirs and the potential of continued guest musicians.

ii. Inviting Common Space

Concern has been expressed about the lack of signage for visitors to the property, both outside to know where to go (such as Elevation, office, sanctuary building, Steen Hall) and inside the sanctuary building to locate spaces (such as sanctuary, nursery, restrooms, fellowship hall). There has also been a desire expressed to brighten the Narthex with lights and color, redesign the Welcome Center for more openness, and add color and updates to Bethany Hall (such as new chairs, decorations on the walls, etc.).

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Goals/Focus Areas Identified (continued):

iii. Hands-On Outreach

The congregation expressed a continued commitment to the ministry of Outreach that responds to Jesus' call for compassionate care of those who struggle in life. Specifically, there is a need to establish a dynamic focus to our Outreach ministry that adapts to the changing needs of the larger community – locally, nationally, and universally. It was determined that it's important to establish an Outreach ministry that's accessible: 1) for the congregation, recognizing the different levels of ability and interest within the congregation, and 2) for those with whom we serve, moving congregation members beyond the walls of the building.

iv. Embodied Inclusivity

In 2011, MVCC voted to become an Open & Affirming congregation. The current congregation continues to embrace our commitment to being a fully-inclusive community that values and celebrates our LGBTQ+ siblings and others. There is a desire to build on our inclusivity by engaging in intentional hospitality that communicates to the larger community that MVCC is a place of belonging for people from all walks of life (such as multi- cultural, racial, economic, educational, and more).

v. Intentionally-Dynamic Ministry with Younger Generations

As the MVCC congregation's average age has continued to rise, and as the congregation has become fewer over the years, especially since the Covid pandemic, our younger generations have become the most impacted representation. There continues to be a desire to extend our inclusivity to all ages, for our ministry to the whole person to include family units and others of the younger generations. Input from the congregation communicates an expectation of a ministry that invests in the discipleship of children and youth by equipping them with life-application faith formation (such as learning and service opportunities).

Goal	Steps to Achievement	Resources Needed	Timeframe
Spirited Music Ministry	<p>Search Committee develops job description that incorporates music program expectations</p> <p>Search Committee conducts search communicating expectations</p> <p>New Music Director develops expanded music program</p>	<p>Search Committee (initially)</p> <p>Competitive Compensation</p> <p>Worship Ministry Team planning</p> <p>Music Director, Bells Director, and Senior Minister oversight</p>	<p>Begins with new hire Music Director anticipated for June 2025</p>
Inviting Common Spaces	<p>Outdoor and indoor directional signage: design, purchase, and install in visible places</p> <p>Narthex and Welcome Center: update with bright lights and colors, modern furniture, and coffee bar</p> <p>Bethany Hall: add color and wall decorations</p> <p>Front porch: redesign area around front door to be more inviting</p> <p>Sanctuary: add nursery and classroom at the back, add new screens/monitors to sides, update audio/video capabilities</p> <p>Long hall: repurpose rooms for office space</p>	<p>Property Ministry Team oversight</p> <p>Liturgical Architect for designs</p> <p>Loadbearing Walls assessor</p> <p>Memorial gifts and other direct funding by congregation members</p> <p>Short-term loan from Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)</p>	<p>Signage, Bethany Hall – 2025</p> <p>Narthex, Welcome Center, Front Porch – 2026</p> <p>Sanctuary, long hall – 2027</p>

Goal	Steps to Achievement	Resources Needed	Timeframe
Hands-On Outreach	<p>Identify individual who is passionate about the ministry of Outreach to Chair ministry team</p> <p>Conduct surveys to determine interests of congregation and receive input for Outreach possibilities</p> <p>Establish framework for a dynamic Outreach ministry that's responsive to changing needs and abilities</p> <p>Explore relationships with local groups to plan opportunities for engaged Outreach</p>	<p>Outreach Ministry Team leading</p> <p>Nominating Committee</p> <p>Community partners</p>	<p>Begins in 2025 with nominating process</p> <p>Ongoing process</p>
Embodied Inclusivity	<p>Develop an intentional ministry that engages in broad diversity within the congregation</p> <p>Expand and broaden advertising of MVCC and events</p> <p>Invest in relationships with LGBTQ+ organizations (such as Transgender Resource Center, CasaQ, and others to learn and support</p>	<p>Social Justice Ministry Team leading</p> <p>Faith-Sharing Ministry Team</p> <p>Worship Ministry Team</p>	<p>Begins in 2025</p>

Goal	Steps to Achievement	Resources Needed	Timeframe
Intentionally-Dynamic Ministry with Younger Generations	<p>Expand volunteer pool of individuals who are passionate about working with children</p> <p>Launch Children Worship & Wonder faith development</p> <p>Develop intentional intergenerational relationships</p> <p>Establish new Search Committee for full-time staff person dedicated to ministry with younger generations.</p>	<p>Membership Ministry Team</p> <p>Education Ministry Team</p> <p>Search Committee</p> <p>Senior Minister</p>	<p>Begins 2025</p> <p>Establish Search Committee late 2025 to begin search early 2026</p>

Conclusion:

- 1) The revisioning process revealed a deep desire for the continued mission of MVCC. The congregation wants variety to ways of engagement in the life of the church and in the community at large.
- 2) While there is a timeline provided for accomplishing each element of this Plan, the reality is that living out this Plan will be an ongoing and evolving process.
- 3) The success of this Vision Plan relies on our expressed hope in God and trust in God's continued guidance.
- 4) It is necessary for us to remember that success is realized in the countercultural ways that Monte Vistans live out our individual and collective commitment to being engaged in the ministry we share and to which we are called.