

# **Christ Church Cathedral**

## **Part I - Where are we going?**

We are on a journey together as Christ Church Cathedral. And every journey has a destination and a route. For us the destination is the answer to a question:

### **What is God's dream for Christ Church Cathedral?**

We're not without a GPS for this journey. Our Episcopal heritage, our history as Christ Church Cathedral and, above all, the living Gospel of Jesus Christ all will help us discover that destination.

Our prayer book gives us our first clue:

*The mission of the Church is to restore all people  
to unity with God and each other in Christ.*  
- Book of Common Prayer, p. 855

Now this isn't something Thomas Cranmer thought up in the shower. It's straight from the Bible. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20:

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.  
So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

That's God's dream for us! And how great is that? Be ambassadors for Christ, reconciling everyone to God and each other in him! It's big and wonderful – so big and wonderful that no one community can accomplish it by itself.

And so like every Christian community, we must ask "What part do we play?" "How has God uniquely positioned and gifted us for this mission?" "What Gospel values does God dream for Christ Church Cathedral to embody ... for this congregation, for our diocese and for downtown St. Louis?"

Answering those questions is what we're doing right now. That is what we are doing when we are looking for our "shared, core values." We are looking for the essence of what God dreams for us to love and be. What piece of that great mission is ours? And the answers will determine the vision and shape of this Cathedral for years to come.

At their workday in January, Chapter engaged in an initial exercise of naming the current and desired values of Christ Church Cathedral. This gave us a broad sense of what the answers to those questions might be. The values that emerged were things like Spirituality/Faith, Diversity, Growth and Service.

At the same time, we knew Chapter alone could not answer this for Christ Church Cathedral ... this was too important and needed to be discerned and owned by everyone.

Chapter identified three constituencies that need to be involved in this discernment and has taken steps to include each in this process of discovery and dreaming.

- 1) **The Cathedral Congregation** - Small group "Shared Values and Joy" congregational meetings will be held in Cathedral members homes throughout the summer. We need EVERYONE ... from the longest-time member to the just-arrived newcomer ... to attend one. This will provide an opportunity for everyone to go through a similar exercise to what Chapter did. Sign up online at [ccchousemeetings.wikispaces.com](http://ccchousemeetings.wikispaces.com)
- 2) **The Diocese** - The Dean and diocesan Chapter representatives prepared a brief survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6NFMCF8>) for anyone in the diocese who wants to participate in this visioning. The Dean and diocesan Chapter reps are also attending meetings of all metros and convocations plus other standing diocesan bodies (Standing Committee, Council, ECW, etc.) to engage them in conversation and get input.
- 3) **The City** - The Dean has convened an ad hoc group of Chapter members and others to designing ways to gather input from local civic, business and organizational leaders and others about what the needs and opportunities are for Christ Church Cathedral as a sacred public space in downtown St. Louis.

This fall, Chapter will take the input and discern 3-5 shared, core values that represent what we believe God dreams for us to be about in the years to come.

The target date for articulation of the shared, core values is the annual meeting in January, 2013. These values will be the guiding principles for everything we do as Christ Church Cathedral.

We call this Part I because it is just that ... the first step. The next step will be asking new questions: "What does a Cathedral that embodies these values look like?" and "How do we get there from here?" We will begin to ask and answer those questions in 2013. And, with God's help, we will begin to shape and live into a vision of a new Christ Church Cathedral that builds on the glory of the old.

So ... stay tuned for Part II ... and beyond!