


15 BY 2010



UNIVERSITY REFORMED CHURCH

**A Bible-teaching and praying church,
ministering to our neighbors,
the campus, the nations,
and the unreached peoples
of the world.**

A VISION
FOR UNIVERSITY REFORMED CHURCH
FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS
JANUARY 2006–DECEMBER 2010



15 by 2010

Introduction: The initiatives are grouped under seven different headings. These are not meant to be rigid categories, but we believe they can be helpful, in so far as they summarize the overall work of the church. These are the seven basic categories of ministry at URC: **corporate worship** (Christ-centered), **biblical teaching** (Bible-based), **missions and evangelism** (missions-minded), **fellowship and pastoral care** (burden-bearing), **mercy ministry and social action** (mercy-ministering), **discipleship** (pilgrim people), and **prayer**. A final category (**general leadership**) has also been added for the purpose of this document.

It should also be made clear that the 15 items below do NOT represent everything we as a consistory or a church care about. This document is not meant to provide an exhaustive overview of the ministries of our church. For example, there isn't much in here about worship or youth ministry or children's ministry but we are passionate about all three. These initiatives are priorities and goals, but they don't describe everything we value or even everything we will be doing over the next five years. They are meant to keep us focused in *at least* these areas over the next five years.

*By the end of the year 2010, relying on the Lord's strength,
we aim to have completed, or be engaged in,
the following fifteen initiatives:*

PRAYER

Initiative #1

To more fully establish prayer as the foundation for all the ministry we undertake by the following means:

- 1a. An annual week of prayer emphasis for the church.
- 1b. An annual Consistory day of prayer (together, or as Elders

and Diaconate)

- 1c. Three paid prayer days annually mandated for all program staff (full and part-time)
- 1d. At least ten regular, open, publicized prayer times throughout the church
- 1e. A regularly scheduled, on-going time of prayer devoted to praying for revival.
- 1f. Devote time in prayer to consider how we might be more actively involved in efforts at racial and ethnic reconciliation.

CORPORATE WORSHIP (Christ-Centered)

We continue to be devoted to prayerful, passionate, Spirit-filled, Scripture-saturated worship services. The pastor, worship leaders, and worship committee are committed to this ideal.

BIBLICAL TEACHING (Bible-Based)

Initiative #2

To more clearly define our doctrinal beliefs and convictions by drafting and adopting a basic evangelical statement of faith. This basic evangelical statement of faith would be the doctrinal basis for church membership; that is, we would expect church members to be in agreement with the statement of faith. The statement would also be a useful tool in advertising and explaining succinctly what our church believes.

MISSIONS and EVANGELISM (Mission-Minded)

Initiative #3

To commission the Missions Committee to develop a strategic plan for global missions.

- 3a. Set goals for incremental increases in our missions budget.
- 3b. Consider adopting an unreached people group.

- 3c. More carefully lay out our missions strategy. What are our priorities? Church planting? Medical missions? Radio broadcasting? How can we be more focused in our priorities?
- 3d. Develop a series of questions to help evaluate requests we receive for mission support.
- 3e. Highlight a missions emphasis week. Consider running it concurrently with our prayer emphasis week.
- 3f. Make available at least one short term mission trip a year for URC families and adults.

Initiative #4

To develop a strategic plan for local evangelism which will faithfully and scripturally proclaim God's message using God-honoring methods.

- 4a. Begin an outreach "program" (e.g. Alpha, Christianity Explored) that could be used effectively at URC.
- 4b. Recruit, train, and better equip the "evangelists" among us. Mobilize all of us to better share our faith.
- 4c. Give our website an overhaul and make better use of local newspapers and other outlets for advertising.

FELLOWSHIP and PASTORAL CARE (Burden-Bearing)

Initiative #5

To launch a new growth group ministry led by well-equipped and well-cared for leaders.

Initiative #6

To commission the Consistory to oversee a plan to divide the congregation into "elder districts." These districts would be shepherded by the elder board (possibly involving the greater elder board). Respon-

sibilities may include making annual visits and being available as an elder contact. The district itself would not meet together as group.

Initiative #7

To improve our visiting and calling ministries by the following means:

- 7a. Develop a visitation program for calling on those who visit our Sunday services.
- 7b. Deploy a lay calling ministry, using the gifts of the congregation to call on the sick, the hospitalized, the shut-in, and the chronically ill.
- 7c. Drawing on resources already available from those who have been involved with Inner Healing Prayer and Stephens Ministry, train at least 5 equipped lay counselors who can help lead the way in ministering to those struggling with addiction, depression, grief, and marital difficulties.

Initiative #8

To strategically combine parts of other initiatives for the purpose of intentionally assimilating strangers and newcomers.

- 8a. Develop a Sunday service (AM and PM) strategy to personally greet each new person who comes, to invite each person to participate further in the life of the church, and to have a method for exchanging useful information between ministries. Share the information at least with Growth Groups (#5) and the visitation calling program (#7a).
- 8b. Develop a Hospitality ministry for meals after Sunday services, fellowship dinners, and other opportunities to easily include newcomers.
- 8c. Develop good communication mechanisms between these ministries and the New Member classes, elder districts (#6), and adult education classes (#10a).

MERCY MINISTRY and SOCIAL ACTION (Mercy-Ministering)

Goal #9 To commission the diaconate to accomplish the following ministry goals:

- 9a. Provide more opportunities for our congregation to show mercy to the poor and needy, and address the causes of poverty, in the Lansing area and around the world.
- 9b. Explore ways to be more integrated and involved in the Lansing Christian Services network of care.

DISCIPLESHIP (Pilgrim People)

Initiative #10 To expand our adult education opportunities.

- 10a. Increase the number of adult classes available and develop a more strategic approach to adult education.
- 10b. Encourage, equip, and fund the URC Institute to broaden its ministry scope.

Initiative #11 To improve and reproduce our campus ministry in the following ways:

- 11a. To better integrate college students into the life of our church, through fellowship, mentoring, and service to and from the body.
- 11b. Begin a new ministry on another mid-Michigan college campus and/or establish a new partnership with an overseas ministry campus.
- 11c. To strengthen our ministry to internationals on campus and in our community.

GENERAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

Initiative #12 To address on-going Sunday logistical concerns.

- 12a. Parking and space problems
- 12b. Recruit and train a “Sunday Morning Manager” who can have oversight over the mechanics of our worship services (sound, set-up, screen operator, van, etc.).

Initiative # 13 To commission the Consistory to oversee a restructuring process which includes:

- 13a. The re-establishment and/or redefinition of the administrative committee.
- 13b. Establish and empower new committees/ministry teams.
- 13c. Re-work our consistory meetings.
- 13d. A written statement, drawn from the Bible and RCA polity, clarifying the qualifications and responsibilities of the elder board, the diaconate, and the consistory.
- 13e. An added training component to our nomination process for church officers.

Initiative # 14 To hire or fully support or make full-time the following staff positions.

- 14a. Hire another Pastor (in addition to Kevin, not in replacement!)
- 14b. Fully fund a full-time Associate Campus Director position starting in 2006.

Initiative #15 To retire the church mortgage which now stands at \$511,400 (as of December 2005).

