

Strategic Planning Meeting with the Tuesday Bible Study Group
September 3, 2019

This is a group of mostly older (70+ years old) parishioners. Some have been in the Saint Mark's community for many years, a few are newer to the community. There were about 15 people in attendance.

Where are we now?

Good diversity in the parish, which improves the community.

There are more young adults. The kids choir is growing

There are many new faces

Good energy in the parish

The Ministry Guide/Directory is helpful

Love the labyrinth – can we have a service there?

The preaching is excellent. And the print and online versions are appreciated, as well as the live streaming.

There are very high standards for music at Saint Mark's.

The Sunday forums are excellent. And also the Wednesday evening dinners/forums.

The Bible Study Group is a good way of making connections and having a community connection at a deeper level. It is a caring group. An example of this was when Pat Taylor was anointed by the clergy after the last liturgical service.

The women priests seem to have a close relationship.

Saint Mark's holds a place in the Seattle community. An example is our presence in marches.

Outside speakers are of excellent quality

It is noted that we are the "Protestant Cathedral" for Seattle.

The building renovations are fabulous.

Dean Thomason is a good team leader. Others that are especially appreciated are Erik Donner, David Wagner, and Kevin Johnston.

"Churchmanship" is appreciated. A liturgical style that is traditional and symbolic, but open to changes and progressive thinking.

Variety of outside musicians in summer

7pm Sunday contemplative/healing service is appreciated. Also Evensong

Where do you want to go? Your vision for the future?

Increase diversity/people of color (4 votes)

Liturgy – more variety in prayers, music. But keep the bread (rather than wafers) (0 votes)

Have more outside musicians throughout the year, just for variety for services. (1 vote)

More collaboration with the Catholic Diocese. (It was noted that this may need to come from them.) (0 votes)

More shelter activity (3 votes)

Establish the nave as a recognized emergency shelter for the City. (7 votes)

Have better meeting times for low-income/disabled people. Not in the evenings. Perhaps monthly community lunches, advertise free Wednesday dinners. Present forums on “how to” subjects such as dealing with grief and/or anger. (2 votes)

Get the Front Door Ministry established to provide daytime support for parishioners, as well as strangers. (4 votes)

Establish a companionship ministry (1 vote)

Grow small groups, because this is such a big place. Continuity of wisdom school offerings and summer gatherings. (6 votes)

Encourage people to sit in the middle of pews, rather than the sides, which discourages people from sitting in the same pew. (2 votes)

The pews are too close together (2 votes)

Have a labyrinth service. (2 votes)

What commitments are necessary to reach goals?

It is the responsibility of lay people to foster small groups (3 votes)

Invite strangers and talk to them (1 vote)

Sit in the middle of pew (1 vote)

Volunteer for the Front Door Ministry – to keep doors to bathrooms open (1 vote)