



Charting UCE's Future

News from the Long-range Planning Team

First draft of our vision statement

**The Unitarian Church of Edmonton -
a liberal religious, multi-generational congregation**

We celebrate a rich mosaic of free-thinking, spiritually-questioning individuals joined in common support and action. We welcome diversity, pursue the common good, and work for justice. We believe in the compassion of the individual heart, the warmth of community, and the search for meaning in our lives.

What is a vision statement?

A vision statement is an umbrella statement that speaks to the core of an organization. It is not a laundry list of everything we do. It captures the best of what already exists, and challenges us to grow. It provides a focus to help us align and prioritize our energy.

How did we arrive at this vision?

We have been working toward the creation of our vision statement since September 2005.

1. Over 12 weeks, we discussed targeted questions during services, at post-service activities, and via emails and individual conversations.
2. On January 14, 2006, we had an all-congregation gathering. Through structured exercises, participants articulated their hopes and dreams for UCE.
3. We published all the questions and an interview sheet in orders of service and newsletters to give everyone the opportunity to participate.
4. In February, a team of language lovers met to distill all the input into the statement you see today. Thanks to Louise Charach, Robert Begg, Stan Calder, Beth Jenkins, Karen Mills, Jolien Pauw, and Sue Paulson for working with such sensitivity and care.

What happens next?

Now we need your feedback again. How do you feel about this vision for our congregation? Can you imagine how we can live it out? Is anything missing? To collect your answers to these questions, we are hosting three post-service events.

- March 5 – “Progressive Lunch”– We’ll provide the food, you provide the answers!
- March 12 – Building a community mosaic
- March 19 – Group discussion facilitated by Marge Roche

If you can't attend these events, you can still provide feedback by calling or emailing Karen Mills (432-0826 or akmills@misc.ca) or by dropping your written comments in Karen's mail box in the church workroom.

We will review your input after these sessions and, if necessary, bring a revised statement back for your review by the end of March. We will then have a second review process. We will vote on the statement at our annual congregational meeting on May 7.