

# First United Methodist Church of Belmont 2025 Strategic Plan for Ministry

## **FOCUS ONE: SHARING OUR STORY WITH OTHERS**

*Developing a more visible presence in the community, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the mission and ministry of First UMC Belmont.*

*“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.” - 1 Peter 3:15*

1. Update church communications with a focus on the website and digital communications.
2. Provide training opportunities for congregation in the area of faith sharing and witness.
3. Develop and distribute promotional items for outreach.
4. Improve external church signage and other visuals to make our mission as a church more apparent and obvious.

## **FOCUS TWO: WELCOMING ALL**

*Building a community in which all people, without exception, are accepted and welcomed.*

*“Be hospitable to one another... Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” – 1 Peter 4:9-10*

1. Develop a comprehensive, intentional system for welcoming all people into the life of the church.
2. Explore and experiment with alternative ways of “being church.”
3. Partner with existing groups in the community who represent those who are often excluded.

## **FOCUS THREE: GROWING PERSONALLY IN FAITH**

*Growing an atmosphere of accountability in which each of us is committed to deeper faithfulness in our relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18*

1. Streamline and focus ministry activities through prioritizing and pruning.
2. Develop a comprehensive system to discover, develop, and deploy laity for mission and ministry.

## **PHASE ONE**

### **I. Update church communications with a focus on the website and digital communications.**

#### **Action Items:**

1. Engage with an outside consultant to assess/analyze current communications and recommend changes.
2. Build a church Communications Team
3. Build a Website Team as a subset of Communications Team to focus on new website.

### **II. Develop a comprehensive, intentional system for welcoming all people.**

#### **Action Items:**

1. Discern a team leader to serve as project manager for the welcoming system.
2. Work with team leader to build a Welcoming Team.
3. Find churches who are doing this well, and learn from them.

### **III. Explore and experiment with alternative ways of “being church.”**

#### **Action Items:**

1. Build a team to begin learning together and exploring possible ways to engage in “another way of being church” inclusive of all people.

### **IV. Streamline and focus ministry activities through prioritizing and pruning.**

#### **Action Items:**

1. Staff will begin this process internally and with the teams they lead.