

Like the Meetinghouses of old, ours was designed to show that we cannot meet with Jesus without meeting one another, both friends and strangers. We are transformed by encountering Jesus, and that encounter is demonstrated as we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves. As Meetinghouse Church, we wholeheartedly affirm Jesus' Great Commandment—we love Jesus, care for our neighbors, and refuse to separate the two.

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-20;  
Matthew 22:36-40; Micah 6:8



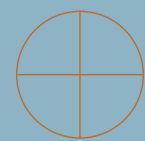
# Strategic Priorities

Based on years of listening and engagement—from Reforming to Town Halls to Vision sessions held by Leadership—here are the directions we'd like to head in the coming 2023-2024 church year.

## Meet with Jesus

Our Meetinghouse has long stood as a place to encounter Jesus and his love for us and be transformed by it as we discover our own belovedness. Following Jesus—discovering his love for us, being transformed by it, and embodying it in the world—is central to who we are. And while we are grounded in this relationship with Jesus, shaped by Scripture, and committed to listening to the Spirit, we honor the many expressions that faith takes in our congregation.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 3:14-21



## Meet with One Another

As a Congregational church, we affirm that there is no one creed, identity, or way of embodying faith that completely defines us. Instead, we are held together by our commitment to follow Jesus and do so one with another. As Jesus' followers, we affirm that all are equally beloved of God and aim to love one accordingly. So no matter your gender, race, age, class, ability, family composition, sexuality, politics, faith or lack thereof, Meetinghouse Church seeks to be a place for people of all creeds and identities to belong. More than tolerating difference as part of being Congregational, we celebrate it as a significant way God shows up in the world.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12-13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:1-6

## Meet with our Neighbors

"Who is my neighbor?" To us, following Jesus is a never-ending journey where we learn to expand who's included in the answer.

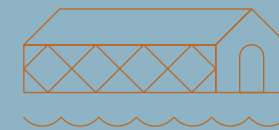
To meet our neighbors is an act of listening. And as we listen, we discover that they are people at the convergence of personal, familial, cultural, and political systems. Therefore, we seek to foster a flourishing life with and for our neighbors by recognizing where these systems can destroy life, and where we can work together to cultivate God's kingdom here on earth. We do this because we believe that this is the call of the gospel in our time: to exemplify Jesus' good news of the kingdom of flourishing life for everyone

Scripture: John 10:10; Matthew 6:33; Amos 5:21-24



## Meet with Jesus

- By July 2023: Commission lay leadership committees for Alternative and Traditional services that meet to cultivate overall experience and increase attendance.
- By April 2024: Increase average weekly attendance between both services by 10%.
- Throughout 2023-2024: Lay further groundwork for Center for Neighborhood Theology.
  - Create an action plan that aims to launch the Center for Neighborhood Theology in Fall 2024.
  - Develop plan for launching Meetinghouse Conversations that seek to connect faith with issues our neighborhoods are currently facing.
  - Continued offering of weekly and occasional offerings like Theology on Tap as well as other formational opportunities that build off felt needs in the congregation and broader community.



## Meet with One Another

- Throughout 2023-2024: Continue community-focused Emerging Generations events and use them intentionally as a bridge to invite people into deeper engagement in the life of the church.
- May-June 2023: Review and re-conceive our plans for Wednesday night to meet congregational needs, deepen intergenerational interaction, and increase likelihood of new participation.
- 2023-2024: Create and implement a stewardship plan to sustainably increase overall giving and gradually reduce the amount drawn from Foundation for operating budget.

## Why They're All Essential

### ↓ Jesus + One Another (No Neighbor)

We show our love for Jesus and one another by seeking God's kingdom for all people.

### ↓ Jesus + Neighbor (No One Another)

As we create a deeply relational community, we are also mobilized to participate in God's work.

### ↓ One Another + Neighbor (No Jesus)

Jesus' transformative work in us provides the resources to sustain the work of community and social transformation.

## Meet with our Neighbors

- August 2023: Missions Team completes the evaluation process to update our missional partnerships to align with our Core Values and maximize opportunities for congregational engagement.
- By July 2023: Utilize findings from Neighborhood Listening Project into an action plan to be shared with the congregation in a Town Hall meeting and via e-newsletter.
- August 2023: Form a Building Usage Task Force to create a plan (a) to update our building aesthetic, (b) orient our building around neighborhood needs, and (c) maximize opportunities for building revenue.

