

First Pres
Congregational Study
2016

Themes

Radical Hospitality

What we love	Blue Sky
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caregiving gives real support• Bridge• Small group ministries• Welcoming to visitors• Fellowship after services & activities*• Culture of greeting• Community events• Non judgmental• Personal invitation• Come as you are• Faith community nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated and more welcoming building• Ongoing community outreach• Caregiving and connection between members• Parking issue resolved• Increased support and connection with members who cannot get to church (or have trouble getting to church)• Outreach to those not attending regularly• Increase and improved methods of communication• Visitors are greeted and welcomed by all• Strong connection to our neighbors• Shepherd new members so feel welcome• Outreach to youth and young adults

* Bold for 4 or more data items in theme

Passionate Worship

What we love	Blue Sky
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music program• Sunday morning worship and special worship services• Kids/youth in worship• Sermons/preaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday morning offers classic and alternative/contemporary worship• Worship services are more informal and participatory• Worship service schedule allows for full services and CE opportunities for adults• Services give visibility to what is happening outside of worship• Chapel space for intimate worship• Services have classic and familiar hymns• Services are uplifting and have a sense of energy• First Pres is preferred worship place for WCU students

Intentional Faith Development

What we love	Blue Sky
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible studies led by pastors• Sunday School• Small groups• Youth program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth more involved and visible in the church• Children's programming has vibrant music, learning goals and strong pastor support• Members attend worship and Sunday School on Sunday mornings• People developing their faith through small group ministry• Technology supporting faith development• Members attend worship and Sunday School on Sunday mornings

Risk Taking Service

What we love	Blue Sky
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service opportunities in the community• Specific mission opportunities (named)• Variety of mission opportunities• Financial mission giving• Youth mission• Global missionaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer programs are structured to engage many members• Deeper community impact• Increase youth mission opportunities

Extravagant Generosity – Leadership - Other

What we love	Blue Sky
Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great staff	Extravagant Generosity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General fundraisers for budget Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members have a strong sense of transparency• Set expectations and challenge members
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Various comments on the culture)	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth in number of members• Redefine success beyond packed pews• (Various miscellaneous ideas)

Next Steps – A Recommendation

- Pick three areas for action so we can be focused in attention and energy
- Our suggestion of those areas are:
 - Worship
 - Faith development (all ages)
 - Service & Outreach
- A small group elders take one of the three areas, review the data, and come up with a recommendation for action at the March Session meeting
- Agenda item at each Session meeting - an update on activities
- Leaders of each area meet once a month to coordinate and keep action on track