



Contagious Courage:
Led by the Heart 
of **GOD** into the 
World

Our Ministry Plan 2017

University United Methodist Church, Lake Charles



A Letter From Our Pastor



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, last year, in our first year together, we participated in a campaign to fund ministry that was a great success! We grew our capacity to continue as a foundational faith community in the heart of Lake Charles by increasing our congregation's generosity by 14%. Throughout the year 2016, your giving helped us to become more deeply rooted in our neighborhood for a new day of transforming lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

There is still much to do in our three focus areas, so we have chosen to continue with them for one more year. In this booklet, you will see what we have accomplished and the goals we have set for 2017. These focus areas of worship, mission, and commitment to young people will help direct our effort toward engaging our members in meaningful ministry and discipleship, and will enable our church in the next year to continue to thrive in the rapidly changing world around us.

We are being called to live with contagious courage. We are being called to step out in faith to make our world better, more bold, and more brave. I hope you hear God calling you to commit—through prayer, service, and financial sacrifice—to moving our church forward into the bright future that God has in store for us.

With Great Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Simpson".

Rev. Katie McKay Simpson
Pastor



Our Focus for 2017 Year of Ministry

Teams of church leaders will plan and implement these initiatives:

Enhancing Our Worship Life

In 2016, we accomplished many of our goals in increased lay participation in worship, updating of technology, and starting a ministry of off-campus worship opportunities such as our "Got Ashes?" campaign during Lent and worship connection with the Wesley Foundation. Sunday morning remains our strongest opportunity to connect with those around us. This year, *to continue sharing God's love in Jesus Christ to our community, we will enhance our worship opportunities on Sunday morning by growing our visual media in our Safe Harbor and Sanctuary services, while also creating a live stream for our worship services to be available online.*



We will also create a team of people committed to connecting with people that may not otherwise have a church or a relationship with Jesus Christ—this could be on the lakefront, in a downtown restaurant, on-campus, at a city festivals. There will be ways to help with this effort in the area of music, sound engineering, hospitality, and advertising.

The Goal
We will engage
25 new individuals or
families through our on
and off-campus worship
opportunities
in 2017.



Revitalizing Ministry to Young People

After a year of living into a new chapter in our youth ministry, we have almost doubled the amount of youth-age children involved in our church's outreach to young people. The youth area has been updated and transformed, and multiple new parents and leaders are committed to teaching and being youth counselors for weekly ministry meetings, Sunday School, and special events.

In 2017, we will begin again dreaming and visioning for how we will engage our young people in a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. *We will continue the growth of our Youth Ministry, but extend our focus to children through the hire of a part-time Children's Director, and the expansion of our Day School as an outreach to the Lake Charles community.* It will also require engagement from everyone—not just youth parents, but many different generations of our church that have a deep commitment to raising up our smallest Christians to be wise, caring and moral leaders.

The Goal
We will engage at least 10 new children into our ministry, and 5 new teachers who will serve in some capacity in ministry support on regular weekly gatherings, trips, etc. by the end of 2017.



Focus our Mission Efforts

Our church has had a rich history of being an involved and vital community partner with other organizations in the Lake Charles area. We continued that faithful tradition in 2016 by strengthening our outreach in our Circle Up ministry to the mentally ill, College Oaks and flood recovery ministries, and equipping families with a strong foundation through the ministry of our Day School, and offering two Mission Days where we served multiple community partners in need.

The greatest development is *our Missions and Outreach Team has discerned the focus for University United Methodist Church's New Initiative for low-income families: a literacy program for children and their parents.* This literacy program will reach out to a new partner school in our area—Barbe Elementary. It will run throughout the year with special events, and will culminate with a Summer Program to address the gap in formation that happens during hot summer months. This program will equip families with curriculum and technology to help struggling children get ahead in school, and parents gain skills needed for finding a job to support their family.







United Methodist Christians have had a history of social holiness and leading beyond the walls of the church to make the Gospel real and known. In 2017, we will seek deeper commitment of time from members of our congregation in these areas.

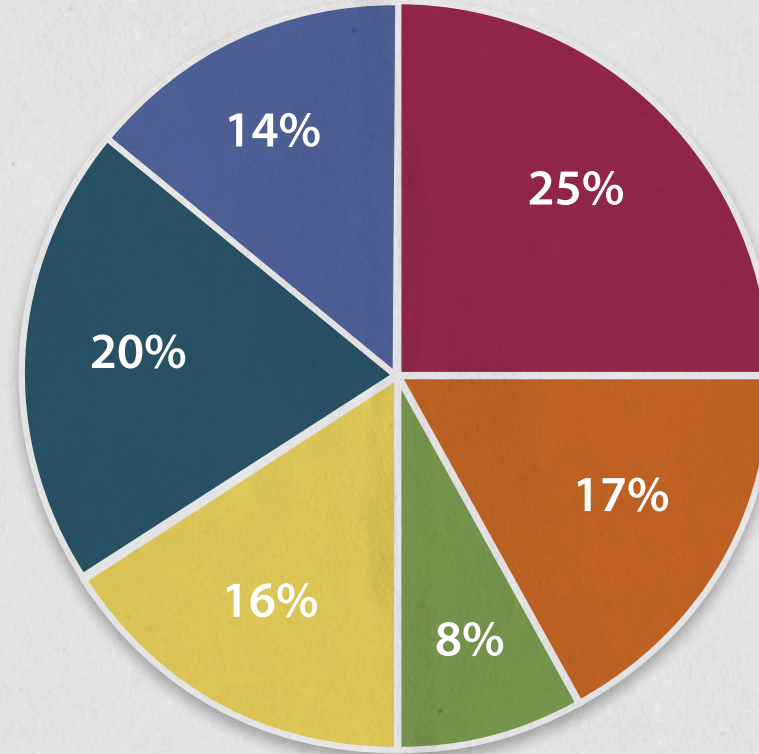


The Goal

Increase participation in our new Literacy Initiative by at least 20 of our members by the end of 2017, and engage at least 25 lower income children in summer 2017 for our UUMC-sponsored Summer Literacy Program, with the intention of growing that program for more families in need in future years.

Proposed 2017 Budget

	Department	% of Total	Amount Budgeted
	Buildings and Grounds	20%	\$109,500
	Missions	14%	\$75,849
	Celebrating	16%	\$84,100
	Inviting	8%	\$44,629
	Nurturing	17%	\$89,234
	Administration	25%	\$138,037
	Total	100%	\$541,349



Buildings and Grounds

Maintaining and strengthening our campus for ministry.

Missions

Programs, events and staff to help those in need.

Celebrating

Congregational Life Events, Worship and Music.

Inviting

Evangelizing, communicating and reaching out to the community.

Nurturing

Education and Programming in different life stages.

Administrative

The everyday needs and operations of the congregation.



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