

## Vision Path Statement

For clarity, the parts of the Vision path statement are prefaced in bold text by the pertinent paragraph of the Vision, as passed at a Special Meeting of the Congregation held on November 2, 2008.

**“That Wesley Memorial United Church is a gathering of those seeking effective ministry by becoming an inviting community, using effective space for worship and ministry, which we cannot do alone.”**

We believe that effective ministry should include, but not be limited to, the programs and services shown below:

- Blend or alternation of traditional, contemporary, and multicultural services
- Quality music programs (bells, senior and junior choirs, etc.)
- Intergenerational programs
- Specifically targeted programs for Children, Youths, Adults, and Seniors
- Pastoral, Child, Parent, and Senior Care
- Men’s, Women’s, and Community groups

We believe that in order for it to be effective, space for worship and ministry must be:

- financially feasible (cost-effective)
- sized in proportion to the average number of people using it, without sacrificing appropriate room for growth
- in compliance with all current construction and/or safety codes (or feasibly made so)
- functionally designed for the intended uses, without significantly precluding future ones
- facilities, in combination with programs and services, must help attract and retain new people

**“That Wesley Memorial United Church is struggling to make a decision, such as, whether to remain part of a united downtown church presence or to become part of a new church in a growing area of Moncton (decision to be made by June 2009).”**

We believe that a proposal of potential union must be sent to all of the local United Churches as soon as possible. This proposal should clearly state that we are interested in building a new congregation either:

- At the Wesley Memorial site, the centrally located United Church that has the smallest sanctuary (seating for 400) and recently upgraded church hall facilities (gym, kitchen, etc.)\*
- At a new, centrally located site that is not an existing United Church\*
- Or at a new site in a growing or developing part of the Greater Moncton area\*

\*Any site chosen must be, or be easily changed to become, effective space for worship and ministry as previously defined.

This proposal should also reflect that a response is needed prior to the June 2009 deadline, as stated both in the Vision and at the meeting of local United Churches held last June at Humphrey.

While awaiting responses from other United Churches, we should consult with Mr. Fred McWilliam, who has a great deal of experience in these situations, about other options that might be available that have not yet been considered. To date, we have considered partnering with other small churches, currently using rental space, to see if some arrangement could be made that would provide much needed funding, as well as the prospect of future co-operation. We believe that while renting out space to other small churches, or organizations compatible with the United Church's Mission and our Vision, would address some of the financial issues facing us, it would do little to address our spiritual issues, short or long term.

We believe that our current struggle is an opportunity for Mission and Service, something that we all hold dear. The United Church legacy that we pass on to our children and to those who come after us should be a rich and relevant spiritual one- not just buildings, however beautiful.

In conclusion, we challenge ourselves to go wherever God may take us, boldly focusing on our present and future, without ever forgetting our cherished past.