

*Vision 2035 Task Force
Planning Committee*

Report to the Congregation

VISION 2035

STEP OUT IN FAITH

...together



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
MARIETTA**



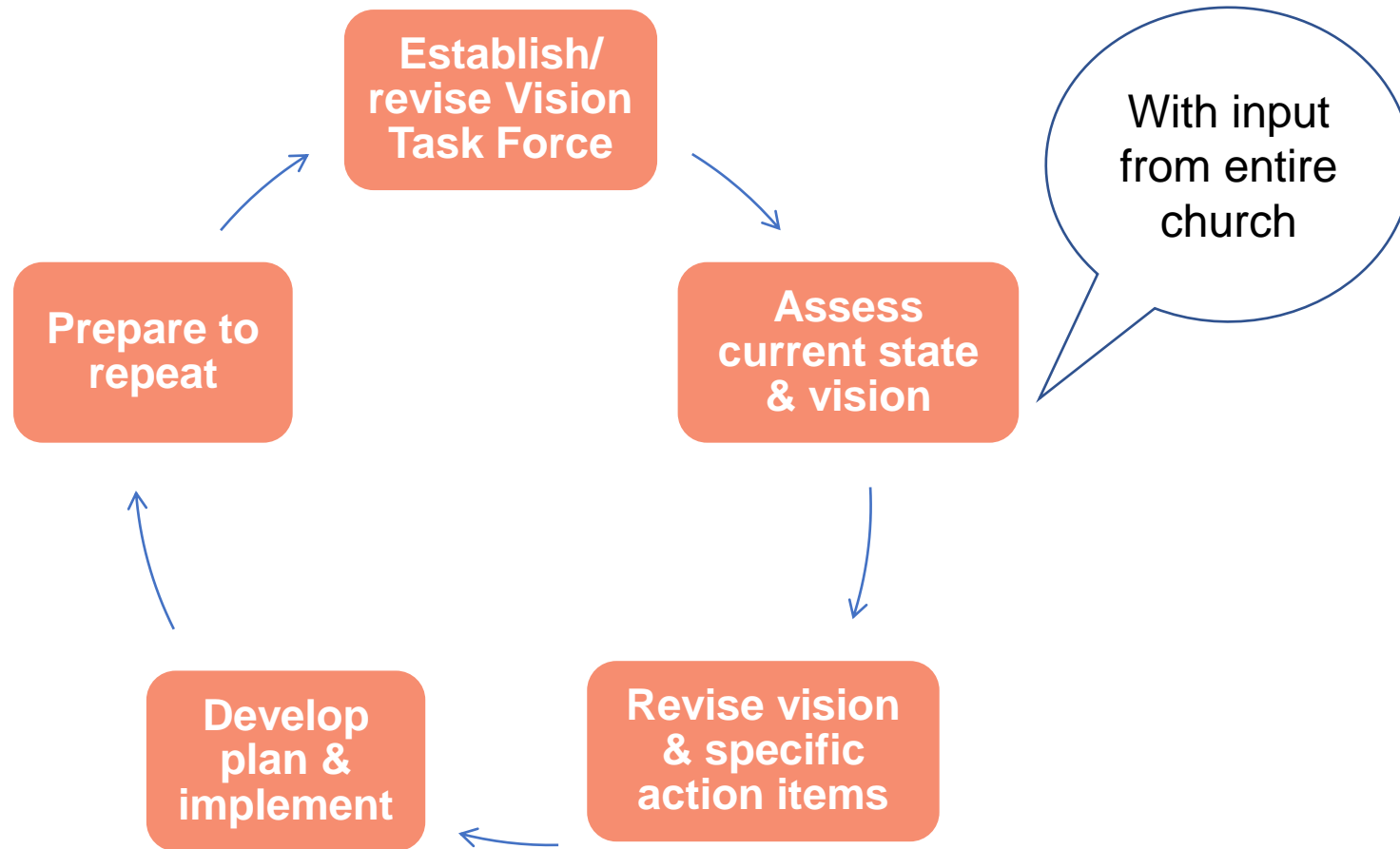
Outline of Meeting

- **Presentation**
 1. Review of Planning Process
 2. FPC Vision
 3. Feedback Process & Summary
 4. Approved Initiatives

- **Questions**



Repeat the Planning Cycle Every 3 to 5 Years*



****Note: Cycles & stages are subject to change due external & internal influences.***

The Planning Process

- Formed in 2017 as The Long-Range Planning Committee
- Became a part of The Planning Council in 2021
- Became a Committee under Administration Council in 2022
- Its function is to facilitate as we:
 - Look at the broader needs of our church
 - Define what our church is to be as we go forward
 - Develop a strategic plan for our church
 - Implement that plan
- **Results:**
 - **LONG RANGE PLAN (2017-2021) Complete**
 - **VISION 2035 (2021-TBD) Approved by Session 8/21/22**

Creating the Vision 2035 Plan

- 1) ✓ The current state of the church
- 2) ✓ A look at our community
- 3) ✓ Define a vision
- 4) ✓ Take Inventory
- 5) ✓ Feedback
- 6) ✓ Structure the plan
- 7) ✓ Review & Session Approval
- 8) Finalize the plan
- 9) Implement & monitor the plan

The Timeline

March: Senior Staff and Officer Feedback

March: Receive Feedback from Youth, Congregation, & Stakeholders using:

- Townhall-format feedback meetings in person and via Zoom
- Online/paper questionnaire

April-July:

- Review feedback & begin to structure the plan

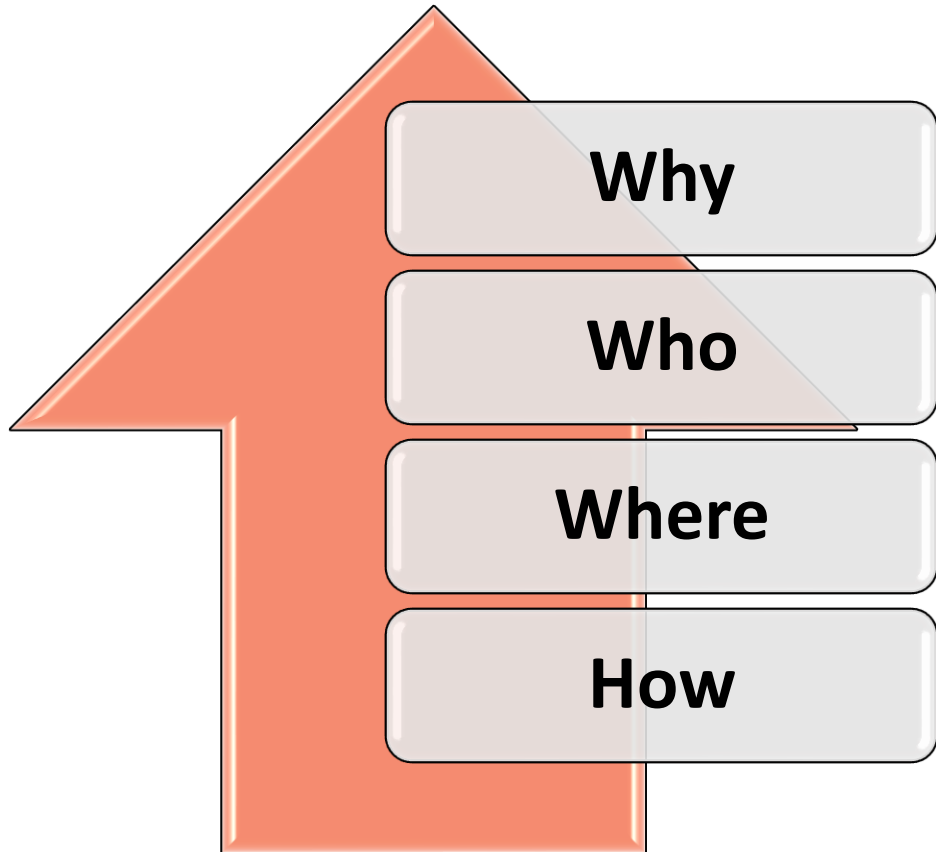
August: Finalize plan, Session approval

Fall:



- Communicate the plan to the Congregation
- Begin work, benchmarking with other churches when appropriate

FPC's Vision



Why

Be a place where God changes lives with faith, hope, & love.

Who

We are a community-based, multi-generational, long-established church.

Where

We are in 21st century metro-Atlanta, a place of expanding diversity, which values its traditions yet strives to be forward-thinking.

How

**We will celebrate & build on our traditions of worship & praise.
We will focus on education & impactful programs for all ages.
We will love our neighbors with justice, mercy, & humility.**

The Survey - Spring 2022

- **Four Questions** (plus option to add additional comments)

Each group was asked to mark the most important for each question

1. What is going well at FPC?
2. What changes are needed?
3. What would you most like to see at FPC?
4. What is your vision for FPC, both short-term and long-term?



Processing the Feedback

Process for Analysis-Weekly Meetings

- Mid-April to Late May
 - Transcribed all comments to Excel
 - Categorized into broad groups
 - Made multiple passes through the data refining the categorizations as a group
 - Developed summary graphs
- June and July
 - Identified common themes
 - Identified actionable items supporting themes
 - Solidified Action Plan
 - Prepared Presentation for Session



Processing the Feedback

The Data

- Analyzed Question 1 separately
- There was considerable overlap in responses to questions 2, 3, and 4; we analyzed it as one
- Separated question 2, 3, and 4 comments into 2 major groups:
 - Concrete suggestions for a specific Council or Committee
 - Conceptual comments and/or comments appropriate for multiple councils



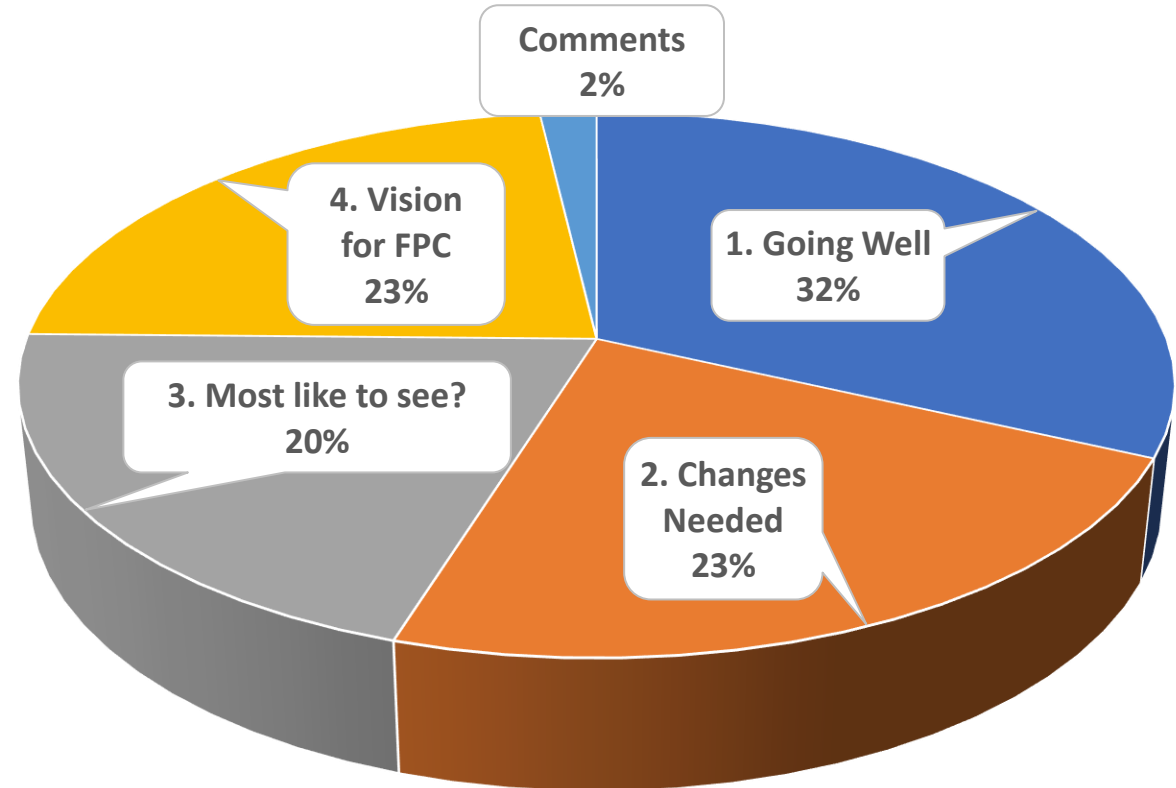
Feedback – By the Numbers

Responses by Question Number

Question	Responses	%
1. Going Well	360	31.9%
2. Changes Needed	259	22.9%
3. Most like to see?	231	20.5%
4. Vision for FPC	258	22.9%
Comments	21	1.9%
Grand Total	1129	

- Resulted in over **1100** comments (1,129)
- Approximately 1/3 of the comments addressed what is going well (360 comments, 32%)
- Purposely asked open-ended questions
 - Pro - Minimizes bias in the question
 - Con - More difficult to summarize/analyze

Number of Responses by Question Number

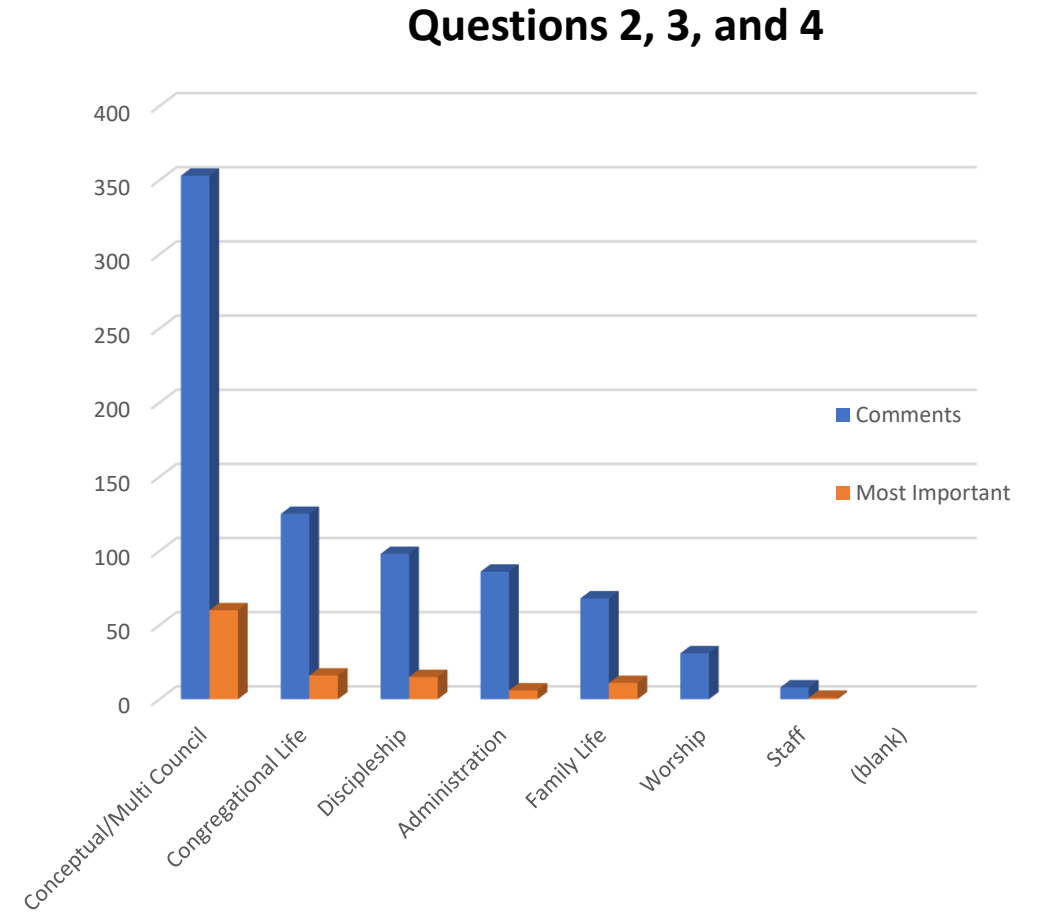
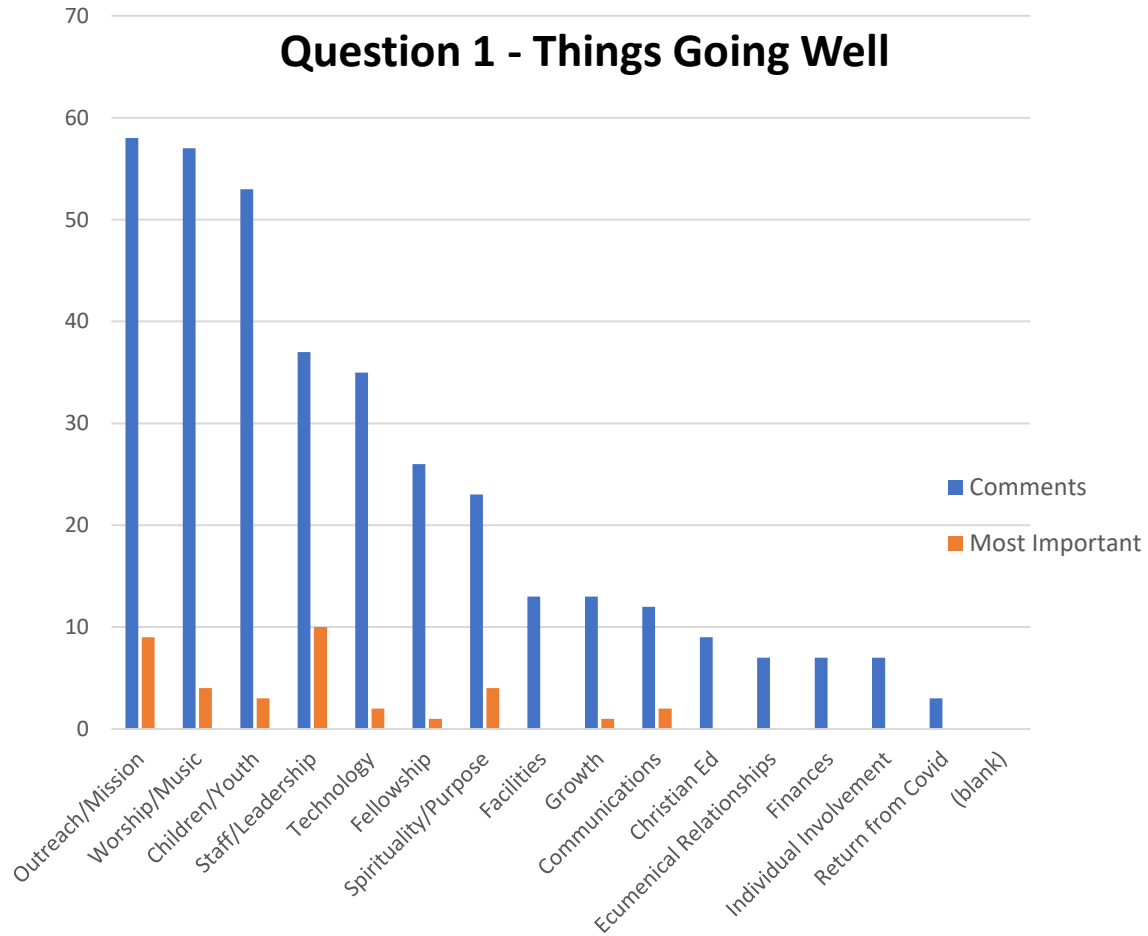


Feedback – Common Themes

- Increase Diversity
- Increase Outreach
- Increase Membership particularly young families
- Increase financial giving and stability of the church
- Create a strategy for optimal use of church facilities now and in the future
(i.e., with increased membership)
- Increase Spirituality
- Increase Ecumenical Relationships
- Increase Individual Involvement



Feedback – By the Numbers





Vision 2035

Approved Initiatives

I. Actions That Required Approval

II. Actions to Restart/Continue/Improve

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider

I. Actions That Require Funds

1. Make FPC More Welcoming Through Intentional Facility Improvements

- a) Indoor Gathering Spaces on main & basement levels & Holland Hall [Task Force - \$\$\$\$]
- b) Outdoor Play & Gathering Spaces [Family Council - \$\$\$\$]
- c) Develop a Master Facility Plan, including maintenance and capital building [Task Force - \$\$\$]

2. Empower Member Connections and Community Relationships

- a) Develop New Volunteer Committee & Database to connect Members with Volunteer Opportunities [New Committee - \$]
- b) Improve (“Upgrade”) Livestreaming (particularly) from the Sanctuary [Technology Committee - \$\$\$]

I. Actions NOT Requiring Funds

3. Prepare Strategies to Align FPC with our Vision (Task Force for each)

- a) Strategy for Outreach, Diversity, and Inclusion, particularly of young families
- b) Strategy for Increasing Spirituality and Ecumenical Relationships

II. Actions to Restart/Continue/Improve

1. Complete the Ambassador program started just before COVID for “Membership through Integration” for New Members [Witness Committee, no \$]
2. Continue to develop successful small group programs [Fellowship Committee, no \$]
3. Complete the COVID “return” to existing programs and add new opportunities for fellowship and service [no \$, some already in progress]

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider

A. Family Council

1. Discover ways to strengthen youth group. Allow for combination of middle and high school when necessary or appropriate.
2. Begin a youth Christian education study series.
3. Meet the youth where they are and focus on what engages them.
4. Discuss possibility of splitting Youth and Young Adult Committee in the next year or two.

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider (continued)

B. Worship Council

1. Increase the diversity of the service, choirs, and music
2. Increase participation/opportunities for children's music programs
3. Consider contemporary service

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider (continued)

C. Communications Committee/Staff

1. Enhance communications internally through the app and website
 - a) Keep church officer information online
 - b) Allow communication channels online
2. Enhance communications externally by purposeful outreach to the community through events, postcards, phone calls, mailers, social media, etc.
3. Enhance both internal and external communications by
 - a) Inviting speakers
 - b) Telling the stories of ongoing/successful ministries

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider (continued)

D. Mission Committee

1. Organize our church mission to focus on the local community
2. Partner with other faith communities/agencies/non-profits to:
 - a) Meet the needs of the community and deliver missions effectively
 - b) Serve refugees in the Atlanta Metro area
 - c) Reach out to the homeless

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider (continued)

E. Greater Church

1. Develop and continue relationships with other community churches
2. Continue/Build Church relationship with the Presbytery

III. Actions for Councils/Committees to Consider (continued)

F. All Councils/Committees

1. Be open to continuing successful community relationships as well as building new ones.
2. Be strategic with our programs. Focus on those that we are capable of doing well.
3. Continue current programs serving our community and expand where possible, focusing on those that can be sustainable/successful, for example:
 - Scouts
 - NAMI
 - Salvation Army Partnership
 - Soup Kitchen
 - FPC Food Outreach Ministry
 - Club 3:30
 - Health Fairs
 - Support for the Elderly
 - Family Promise, etc.

The Goal - Commit to Actions to Increase Membership by 500 in 5 Years

The Final Steps



8) Communicate the Plan

- Introduce the plan to the staff/congregation
- Explain how the plan will be implemented
- Outline action items & working groups assigned to each action segment

9) Implement & Monitor the Plan

Expectations

- Focus our mission
- Build on our strengths
- Create excitement
- Establish accountability
- Discover new ideas for a bright future
- Prepare FPC for our 3rd Century



**We're
All
in!**



The Committees and Task Forces Need You!

- **VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

Help connect members to volunteer opportunities for service in the church

- **MASTER PLAN TASK FORCE**

Help design a plan for long-term facility management, use, and development for the next 10-15 years

- **OUTREACH, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE**

Help develop a plan for reaching potential new members and participants from the broader Cobb County community

- **SPIRITUALITY AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS TASK FORCE**

Help develop a plan for deepening our spiritual connections to God, one another, and across the faith-based community



Questions?