

MISSION STUDY 2014



**First Presbyterian Church
Ukiah, California**

Dear FPCU Church Family,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

Enclosed in this packet is the Mission Study report for FPCU, the result of a yearlong season of prayer, study, discussion and reflection centering around our experience of God in Jesus Christ, individually and as a community of faith.

This document, compiled into its present form by our Mission Study Team, and further refined, finalized and approved by our Session, is a synopsis of a congregation-wide conversation regarding God's vision for our life together at FPCU. And the vision that emerges from it reflects the leading of God's Spirit in the midst of this conversation through the diverse and collective voice of our congregation. It is intended to be a living document, a catalyst for us to live into God's continually unfolding vision for our worship life together. It is NOT a 'finished product' – it is more of a detailed 'snapshot' regarding where we find ourselves as a church in 2014, and the beginnings of where we sense the Spirit may be leading us into the future.

Our vision and mission as a church family will continue to evolve and grow, especially upon the arrival of our next pastoral leader, whose wisdom, experience and insight will further shape it and help empower us to embody it.

We strongly encourage you to read this document thoughtfully and thoroughly. This copy is yours to keep, so feel free to write down thoughts and questions in the margins.

As questions will undoubtedly arise as you read, we invite you to write down your thoughts, questions, ideas, etc., and share them directly with any members of our current Session or Staff (via email, written message, by phone or in-person). You have been an important and central part of our on-going conversation of discernment, and that will continue!

We thank God for the chance to continue growing as a part of the Body of Christ, a living organism experiencing and reflecting grace and truth, mercy and justice, love and life to all. And we thank God for each of YOU. May God continue surprise and delight us all in this strange and wonderful journey of faith in Christ!

With Christ and with you,

Your Mission Study Team

(Michael Chambers, Jaunita Coddington, Dory Haselswerdt, Kayla Holland, Roe Sandelin, Molly Schultz, Katy Seltzer, Lenord Swope – Session representative, Brian Marsh – Interim Pastor)



CHURCH MISSION STUDY 2014

NOTE: The following Mission Statement, description of Church as Community, and Session Organization and Mission Statements are current as of March, 2014. We are in the midst of a broad, church-wide journey of discernment that has begun during our Transitional/Interim season of life together. We anticipate that this journey will continue with the arrival of our next permanent pastor, and will be further refined by the wisdom, experience, guidance and leadership that this pastoral leader will bring to FPC Ukiah.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Our purpose as an intergenerational church is to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ with each other, our community and the world."

We affirm:

Jesus Christ is the head of the church by the plan of God.

Christ calls the Church into being, and gives it what is necessary to succeed in its mission in the world.

Christ gives to the church its faith and life, its unity and its mission.

Our understanding of God and the life of faith in Jesus is expressed through the Great Ends of the Church:

The proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind (*Preaching, Evangelism, Mission and Outreach*)

The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God (*Christian Education, Relational Ministry, Hospitality*)

The maintenance of divine worship (*Corporate and Personal Worship*)

The preservation of truth (*Biblical teaching, Intentional Christ-centered living*)

The promotion of social righteousness (*Caring for all people living in poverty, hardship and injustice, Breaking down racial, gender and religious walls of separation*)

The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world (*Living in harmony with all children of God, and sharing the love of Christ in action and word with all the world*)



BACKGROUND

First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah was established in 1874, with its campus situated right in the heart of downtown, where it remains to this day. In the 140 years of ministry, 24 pastors have led the church. Since 1974, the pastors have experienced long pastorates with the Rev. Al Damon serving 18 years and the Rev. Larry Ballenger serving 10 years, and the Rev. Sherry Budke serving 7 years.

Our sanctuary was completed in 1967. The design is special for many reasons. The interior radiates from center of the communion table to form a semi-circular space. Modern stained glass windows with vibrant colors adorn both the front and back walls. A Celtic cross hangs in the front of the sanctuary and the same cross design is incorporated in the outside steeple and architecture. Our facilities are well maintained and are currently being updated room by room.

The active church membership is currently at 166 with an average Sunday attendance of 94. The church roll includes a cross section of ages, young families through senior adults.

Our worship style is blended with one intergenerational Sunday morning service. We have an organ, piano, guitar, percussion, and worship team. Elders assist in worship and occasionally preach. Our preaching is biblically based and stresses faith as a way of life.





FINANCES

The annual stewardship campaigns have been consistent in amount even in difficult economic times. The annual budget is based on a combination of pledges and faith giving. In the last number of years income has not met budget. Budget adjustments have been made without impacting core staffing; however, budget management continues to be an ongoing challenge for our Session.

We have been blessed with memorial bequests that have allowed us to offset budget deficits and to address needed maintenance. We are a debt free congregation who consistently provides for those in need, are committed to missions, and facility maintenance. We strive to make budget and are careful stewards of our resources.

THE CHURCH AS COMMUNITY



- ❖ We are young and old, single, married, divorced, widowed
- ❖ We are from a variety of religious backgrounds and experiences
- ❖ We are Christians from a variety of denominations
- ❖ We are Presbyterians who value the traditions of our faith and engaging with a variety of voices and experiences beyond our tradition
- ❖ We are long-time members of FPCU and new to this community and the Christian faith
- ❖ We are people who value each other as God's children
- ❖ We are connectional and relational

- ❖ We are traditional and contemporary, formal and informal
- ❖ We are striving to be genuine, hospitable and inclusive (and sometimes we succeed)
- ❖ We are the 'partially frozen chosen' beginning to 'thaw'
- ❖ We are believers who care enough about our faith in Christ to try and live it out authentically and faithfully
- ❖ We are a community in transition, seeking God's vision for our common life and mission

We are a family of faith in Jesus Christ that spans generations, ethnicities and gender. We come from differing socio-economic backgrounds. Some of us have grown up in Presbyterian households, while others are from different Christian communities or faith traditions, and others are new to the Christian faith. We are blessed by our Creator with our own unique gifts and we carry our own unique burdens. Not unexpectedly, our expressions of worship to our singular God are broad and varied. We are indeed diverse, yet we are united by a thirst for an authentic relationship with the God who has created us to be both uniquely individual and communal. This single commonality not only overcomes our differences, but also embraces them, drawing us together as a family in this community of faith in Christ. We seek not only to strengthen and support one another, but to reach out in acts of service demonstrating to others the heart of Jesus.

We recognize that the 'we' described above consists of dozens of unique 'me's' who reflect these various descriptions to greater or lesser degrees. We desire these individual 'me's' to connect meaningfully with the 'we', but understand that some do more so than others.

One of our college age members offered this thoughtful view of our mission:

I have found that our church is first and foremost a community and a family rather than a place of worship. A church not dependent on where it meets or how its Sunday morning worship services are, but rather how it presents worship as a lifestyle to its members. It is really hard to find a genuine community that is welcoming and loving. I truly feel that community at FPCU, but I also question if I feel that community only because I grew up it. I wonder if that community is detectable to someone who walks in the door for the first time.

Since being away, I have noticed more of the superficiality of our church in wanting to look good rather than focusing on the community and "feeling good." Worship services don't need to be scripted or polished as long as they are genuine.

I have also realized how much talent and potential there is within our church that is not harvested. I think that people are unwilling or scared to commit their true offerings and talents, and this is a threat to the church.

[Away at school] I have been looking to connect with a new [location] church, and I have definitely noticed a difference in the overall congregation of a church if they have a body that has surrendered their talents to the Lord. Even if these talents lead to a more "unpolished" or "amateur" type of worship service and ministry life, it definitely makes the church feel more welcoming and comfortable.

A Relational Community



At heart, God is relational, and created us for relationships. God embodied this relational nature perfectly and completely by coming to us as one of us in Jesus Christ. God demonstrates the priority of relationship throughout Jesus' ministry. Therefore, building relationships is a central priority for our church and congregation. We are always seeking opportunities to create and strengthen our relationships with God, each other, and the community.

As we recognize our diversity and multigenerational members, we are trying to deepen the spiritual lives of the young, support our older members, and nurture those who are in between without taxing or neglecting any one group. Currently, we are not always as successful as we want to be, but are working to be stronger and more effective.

We offer many opportunities to connect relationally on all of these levels. In weekly worship gatherings, small and large group bible studies and discussions, serving with others in the broader community, and various social gatherings (including picnics, potlucks, barbecues and other celebrations), relationships are initiated, nurtured and strengthened. Ukians like to eat, and we take joy in cooking! We seek to engage & honor people of all ages and stages in our church, from infants in the nursery to our elders with Very Important Person (VIP) programs.

We invite the community to a Halloween trunk or treat carnival, Easter egg hunt, Community Christmas Sing Along, Community Christmas Lunch Outreach, Vacation Bible School, and Family Fall Fun event.

The church also provides meeting facilities in support of Hispanic AA, Boy Scouts, Community Bible Study, PEO (a woman philanthropic organization), and performance space for Ukiah High School and the School of Performing Arts and Cultural Education (SPACE).

A Missional Community



We have a heart for local mission and outreach. We volunteer at the homeless shelter with ministries of service and care. We support the food pantry by preparing and delivering lunches to homeless on the weekends in tandem with other churches in the community.

Twice a year we offer gently used clothing at no cost to those in need. We are involved with Habitat for Humanity, Plowshares, the Buddy Eller Center, and the Center for Life Choices. Many of our members volunteer as tutors in the local schools. An annual Rummage sale is a key fund raiser to support these activities.

On the global front, we work closely with Partners International and Rafiki Missions. Each year our women sew for an orphanage in Kenya and we participate in Samaritan's Purse shoebox ministries. We participate in World Vision ministries such as child sponsorship and the 30 Hour Famine, led by our youth groups. Our congregation has sent mission teams to Africa and Mexico. Summer of 2014, we'll be serving in Texas at World Hunger Relief, Inc.



A Worshiping Community



We approach Worship as an encounter with the living God. It engages our whole being: mind, heart, and soul. As we are drawn into God's presence, we are empowered to walk in faith and embody the teachings and spirit of Jesus.

Sunday services are a blend of formal and informal worship. The Worship team consists of the Pastor, Music Director, and the Praise Team. The music is a blend of traditional hymns and praise music. Words for songs, scripture readings, and responsive readings are projected on screens.

Seasonal and special services include Taize services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, and other services as needed and as opportunity provides.



A Discipling Community



We disciple God's people in many ways. And, while education is important, life transformation is equally important. We attempt to model a Godly life through our relationships and educational programs.

We have a number of adult bible studies and small groups which includes Men's Tuesday morning Bible study, Tuesday Women's Bible study, Bethel, Presbyterian Women's Bible study, Very Important Persons (VIP), and Girls Time Out (GTO). We are working to expand women, young adult, family, and men's ministries.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an annual event that brings in a wide array of non-churched children and their families. Our youth have a variety of opportunities to meet with each other and to connect with the broader Church community.

Children attend the first part of worship and have their own relationally based classes for age appropriate Bible study. We send many of our students to Christian camps.



A Connectional Community



We are active in the Redwoods Presbytery which is made up of a theologically diverse group of people. We feel we are treated with respect even when our views on certain issues may sometimes conflict with the some of the other member churches. We offer financial support to the Presbyterian mission budgets.

The local Ministerial Association has been dormant for several years but is in the process of being reactivated as a support for local pastors.

SESSION ORGANIZATION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

The Session is organized into two Councils, the Resource Council and the Family/Outreach Council. The Resource Council is responsible for Personnel, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, and Nominating. The Family/Outreach Council is responsible for Worship, Christian Education, Missions, and Congregational Care/Life. Deacons are a part of and support the Family/Outreach Council.

Resource Council

Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee assists the Session in fulfilling its responsibilities for the persons employed by the church and to provide support and counsel to the staff. Personnel's mission is to nurture and encourage the present paid and volunteer staff, seeing to their job satisfaction, accomplishments and concerns and to attend to the future staff consideration and make recommendations to the Session.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee provides leadership for stewardship, including stewardship campaign, recommendations for financial support; audits and reviews, and assists the Session in development and administration of the annual budget. The committee works closely with other ministry teams to provide financial support and expertise. The finance year is based on a fiscal year beginning in July and ending in June.

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds of the church. They supervise the regular workdays of the church and oversee the maintenance staff of the church.

Nominating Committee

Leadership is critical to the success of God's work in the Church. The Nominating Committee identifies and nominates suitable church members for vacancies on the various Church boards and committees.

Family/Outreach Council

Worship Committee

The Worship committee supports the pastors and worship leaders in meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation. The Worship Committee focuses on "preaching of the Word, celebration of the Sacraments, corporate prayer, and offering of praise to God". The Worship Committee seeks to provide an environment where the different modes of expression of the people gathered will be valued and used in the worship of God.

Christian Education – Youth & Young Family Ministry Committee

The Christian Education committee works to open the hearts and minds of children to the transforming love of Jesus so that each child might grow in Christ and, in God's timing, profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Christian Education Committee focuses on building relational ministries with youth and their families; to disciple youth as they grow and mature in their love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Partnering with families to support and encourage them in their important role as Christian parents.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee looks for opportunities to bring the knowledge of Jesus Christ by identifying and supporting worthy projects locally or globally that reflect the great commission.

Congregational Care/Life Committee/Deacons

The Congregational Care/Life Committee encourages members of the First Presbyterian Church to participate in God's calling to share his good news and serve others. To create an environment where serving is seen as a Christian responsibility and comes from within. The Board of Deacons provides the hands and feet to support these activities.



COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF THE CHURCH

Our congregation is regarded as welcoming, friendly, having close relationships with each other. However, only a few people appear to know that we do outreach within the community. We have a desire as a church community to engage more fully with our neighbors and the broader Ukiah community, and see this as one of the central aspects of God's emerging vision for our church.

We value service to others in our congregation, our local community and internationally through work of the deacons, volunteering in schools, feeding the homeless, serving at Buddy Eller Center, Plowshares, and working with World Vision and Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry. Through these means and more, we have established and continue to grow relational and missional connections as a way of embodying the life-giving and life-changing love of Jesus, in our city and beyond.



UKIAH CITY/COMMUNITY PROFILE

Situated in a green valley, surrounded by vineyards, orchards and redwood covered hills, Ukiah residents have long known that we live in a beautiful place. Incorporated in 1876, Ukiah is located approximately 100 miles north of San Francisco in the northern coastal region of California on U.S. Highway 101. The area is centrally located between the Bay Area, Eureka and Sacramento. With the northern Coastal Mountains as a backdrop, Ukiah is situated in the fertile Yokayo Valley. Ukiah is just over an hour drive from the Mendocino Coast and the coastal redwoods, and two hours from the San Francisco Bay area.

Unlike many other cities close to the coast, Ukiah is relatively fog-free. This fact, coupled with warm days and cool evenings, gives Ukiah an ideal climate for those who want four seasons but don't want extreme temperatures.

CLIMATE

- Average annual rainfall: 36.96 inches
- Average temperature: 59.8°F
- Average maximum temperature: 73.5°F, with cold winters and hot summers.
- Average minimum temperature: 46.1°F
- Elevation: 610 feet

POPULATION

- City of Ukiah, 2012: 15,907
- Ukiah Sphere of Influence, 2012: 31,802
- Average age: 36
- Total housing units within city limits: 6,384
- Vacant households (as of June 2012): 248
- 2012 Median Household Income: \$43,721
- 2012 Mendocino County Population: 87,428
- Population with a bachelor degree: 17.2%

CULTURAL BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE

White	63.5%
Latino	27.8%
American Indian	3%
Asian	2%
Black or African American	1.7%
Multi-ethnic & other	2%

INDUSTRIAL PROFILE

The largest industry in Ukiah and Mendocino County is agriculture. Ukiah's unusual climate and fertile soil are home to numerous wineries, grape vineyards, pear producers, and wood products plants. And, as the county seat, a large number of Ukiah residents are employed by government.

Additionally, Ukiah is home to the Ukiah Valley Medical Center, a regional trauma center, part of the Adventist Health System. A helicopter life flight system is also based at the Ukiah airport.

EDUCATION

Educational opportunities in Ukiah and Mendocino County are significant and quite diverse. In addition to the solid educational services of the Ukiah Unified School District there are a private schools like the Waldorf schools, charter schools, and religious based schools such as St. Mary's, Ukiah Junior Academy, and 10,000 Buddha's.

Mendocino College is the local community college near Ukiah sited on an expanding campus just north of town. Several universities have remote campus services including Sonoma State University and Dominican University. The University of California Davis has an agricultural field/research station in Hopland, south of Ukiah.

ARTS & RECREATION

The City of Ukiah and its surrounding area offers many opportunities for outdoor and cultural activities.

- Lake Mendocino recreation area
- Ukiah Valley Golf Course
- Grace Hudson Museum and Sun House
- School of Performing Arts & Cultural Education (SPACE)
- Mendocino Ballet
- Mendocino College Theatre
- Ukiah Players Theatre
- Sundays In The Park
- Ukiah Community Concert Association
- Ukiah Civic Light Opera
- Ukiah Symphony
- City and County Parks

HOUSING

Housing in the Ukiah area is extremely varied. Primarily, housing is single family with some duplexes. Many of the single family homes are rentals. Neighborhoods tend to be quiet and family-oriented, some with turn-of-the-century Victorians. There are a range of apartment complexes scattered around the city.

In town, one is close to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and healthcare. Surrounding the city is the Yokayo Valley countryside dotted with orchards and vineyards, rolling green hills and stands of oak, fir, and redwood.

The housing types of Ukiah and the Yokayo Valley are highly diverse.

Estimated median house or condo value in 2013: \$280,000

Estimated rental for 2-bedroom apartment: \$850-900

Estimated rental for 2-bedroom townhouse: \$1100-1200

Estimated rental for 2-bedroom house: \$1100-1400

MINISTRY INFORMATION FORM (MIF) DATA

Ministry ID 00689

Ministry Name First Presbyterian Church Ukiah

Mailing Address 514 West Church Street

City Ukiah State CA Zip Code 95482

Telephone Number 707-468-9235 Fax Number N/A

Email office@fpcukiah.org

Web site www.fpcukiah.org

Congregation or Organization Size (Select one)

X 101 - 250 members

Average Worship Attendance 94

Church School Attendance 101 (28 children/youth and 73 teaching and participating adults in church school or bible study)

Church School Curriculum Grow, Proclaim, Serve: Ecumenical Curriculum

Ethnic Composition Of Congregation (in whole %):

Enter the percentage of each racial ethnic component of your congregation.

98 White

2 Hispanic Latino/Latina, Spanish

Presbytery Redwoods Synod Pacific

Community Type (select one) X Town

Clerk of Session Contact Information:

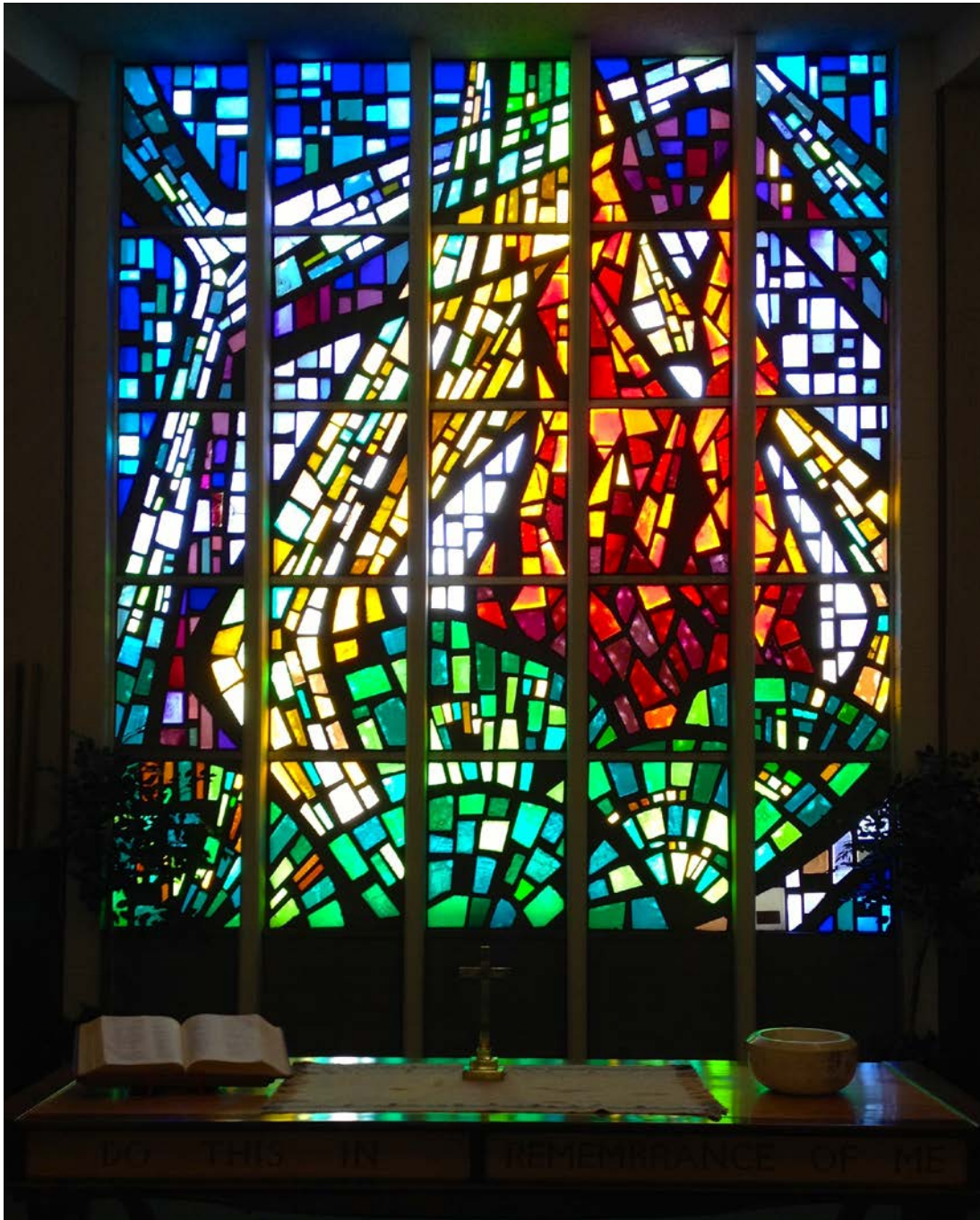
Name Warren Pribyl

Address 201 Burlington Drive

City Ukiah State CA Zip Code 95482

Preferred Phone 707-462-4134 Alternate Phone N/A

E-mail wmpribyl@jps.net FAX N/A



***First Presbyterian Church
514 West Church Street
Ukiah, California 95482
707.468.9235
www.fpcukiah.org***