



VISION2028

DAVISCOMMUNITYCHURCH

Why do we exist?

As a small but important part of God's large and beloved community, we seek "to tend the wellbeing of the place and people around us" (*from Jeremiah 29.7*).

What do we do?

"We help people thrive—body, mind, and soul."

How will we behave?

We will grow in gratitude and generosity, offering a sense of belonging, meaning, and engagement—in order to "love God and love our neighbors" more fully and freely.

What will focus our strategy?

What will focus our strategy over the next decade--that is, what will guide our decision-making in a purposeful, intentional, and unique way that will enable us to generously tend the wellbeing of the place and people around us, and help people come alive, in all their fullness—body, mind, and soul?

We will:

1. become *more diverse* as an embodiment of God's dream for the world
2. cultivate *spiritual practices* that promote experiences of soulful flourishing
3. leverage *new economic practices* that foster sustainability, resilience, and involvement
4. broaden active *participation* through a myriad of pathways to community
5. recover and extend *the moral actions of Jesus* in ways that shape a better world
6. *steward our land and buildings* responsibly for the sake of the future

On **Diversity**: We will increase our diversity—race, ethnicity, age, gender-identity, socio-economic status, and more—in order to more fully represent our state, nation, and world. We must intentionally shift away from white cultural dominance and embrace a flourishing pluralism as the way of the future. Conscious pluralism is a parable of Christ’s gospel; it is one of the key gifts Christian spirituality can offer the 21st century world.

On **Practices**: We will cultivate an environment that promotes a vibrant inner life and physical wellness through a wide array of spiritual practices, embedded in all aspects of congregational life. These practices will deepen our experience of God—the reality of God’s love, peace, hope, transformation, and healing. A healthy and vibrant spiritual life is essential for wellbeing and grows from the heart of Christian faith. Spiritual practices can also build bridges between persons of other faith traditions from whom we can learn and with whom we can work for the wellbeing of the world.

On **Economics**: “Economics” comes from the Greek New Testament word, oikos, which means “household”; it’s a term that refers to more than money. Any time we consider our finances, we will do so in light of our whole community, our common “household”. We will enter the new economic future, financing our unique expression of Christ’s mission and ministry by involving the community in advancing the common good. So we must embrace technology, new trends in charitable giving, and promote DCC as a meaningful and robust socially responsible organization—a “go to” investment for those who seek the common good. These practices will include habitual, impulse, and legacy giving by “members” as well as others who are inspired by our work.

On **Participation**: We will draw more people into a sense of authentic belonging and active participation by becoming a hub (both physically and virtually) for involvement and activism. We must steward innovations in technology as vital ways to foster a strong network of relationships and involvement. While we will create a broad array of ways people can affiliate, learn, serve, and experience authentic community, we value intentional, regular gatherings where our core values and practices like stillness, storytelling, prayer, ritual, learning, mentoring, and serving (to name a few) ensure that every person can find their place among an ever expanding circle of companions and friends.

On **Action**: We will seek to embody the ways Jesus challenged the assumptions, structures, and systems of power and privilege that created injustice, oppression, and abuse, and kept in power those who benefited from their positions of privilege. We will embody the courageous way of divine love not only outside the congregation, but inside it as well—facing our own complicity with injustice and our blindness to its effects. We will give voice to the voiceless, advocate for the marginalized, and leverage our power to create a community and world where “there is no needy person among us” (Acts 4.34) and where the creation is no longer languishing in despair (Romans 8.21).

On **Land-Use**: We will participate with the city of Davis in its new 2040 Vision to help create a thriving and sustainable community. Our land and buildings are of great value in terms of financial and social capital. We must steward this land responsibly; it can fall into ruin and irrelevance or it can be a source of economic, environmental, and relational flourishing for us and the community. How can we be part of a thriving downtown, a model for the way a religious community can help engender a new vision for human community that benefits the region and the planet?