

Come join all the volunteers and support
persons from HMUC

*HMUC Day out !
Exploring Vision and
Mission*

1st June 2019

Information from the Day Out

On the 1st June 2019 volunteers and support persons from Heaton Moor United Church met at Luther King House to discuss and explore Vision and Mission for Heaton Moor United Church.

There were approximately 30 people present from the church, to facilitate the event Rev. Dr Jacob Devadson, Rev. Ian Rutherford and Rev. Dave Fraser joined us at the event.

Rev. Dr Jacob Devadson is the minister at St Catherine's Church, Heald Green.

Rev Ian Rutherford is the City Centre Minister at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester

Rev. Dave Fraser is the Mission Enabler for URC, Southern Area of the North West Synod.

We started the day with Worship led by Jacob, he focused on Caleb and his leadership qualities.

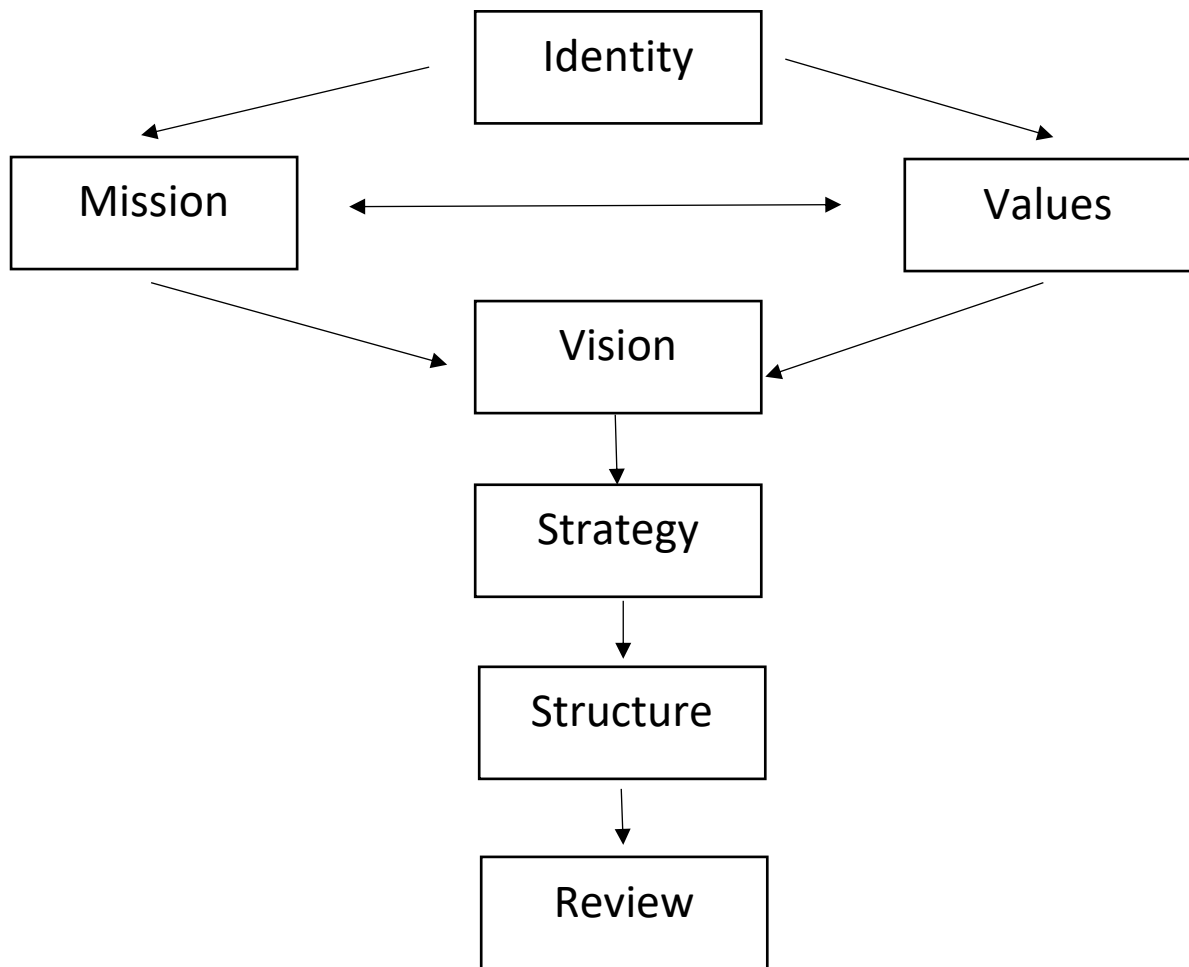
The story of Caleb is told in Numbers 13, 14; Joshua 14, 15; Judges 1:12-20; 1 Samuel 30:14; 1 Chronicles 2:9, 18, 24, 42, 50, 4:15, 6:56.

The three key areas discussed in relation to Caleb were:

- 1. Volunteering to Take the Toughest Hill Country (at the age 85)**
- 2. Ministry with Humility & Obedience**
- 3. Passing on the Legacy of Vibrant Faith to the Next Generation**

Rev. Ian Rutherford then took the next session.

He introduced a strategic model to use as a template to structure the vision and mission for the church.



There were 6 groups that worked together.

Below is a summary of the feed back from all those groups in relation to the tasks done.

Identity

Who are we?

Neh 1:2 I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

Christian Church in a wealthy suburban area

Modern building

Community asset

Group of friends, although diverse opinions are expressed the love of God is a common opinion held by all.

Large congregation but struggling due to the high average age of the congregation. This can cause anxiety about doing new things and maintaining existing things.

Split personality seen as a community hub and a community church, how to bring the two together.

Blind spot about identity, perceptions on external views of the church and how it fits into a modern view of church.

It is used for a diverse range of community groups across all ages.

Caring

Welcoming

The window of the church is a focal point for the area.

Good Ecumenical relationships within and beyond the church.

Values

What is important to us?

Neh 1v4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven.

There were 4 aspects to this answer. With the word 'Love' covering them all.

1. Worship - variety of worship on different days of the week not just Sunday. Covering all ages and styles of worship to meet the needs of the different persons attending worship.
2. Community - Inclusive non-judgemental, friendship and fellowship with everyone and openness.
3. Social justice - Care for creation and 'Love thy neighbour' inside and outside the church, this is to include home and abroad.

4.Christ Centred - Follow Christ's teaching seek to understand them.
Build a church for the future

Mission

Why do we exist?

What are we here to do ?

Romans 2:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what god's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Be the message, follow Christ, become the body of Christ when interacting with others.

We exist because people before us had a strong sense of mission.

To build on traditions without being bound by them.

To reach out to others with the Christian message at the centre.

To worship God.

Provide a focus for spreading belief in Christ and his teachings.

Express our beliefs through service to the local community.

To provide a space to worship God.

Be able to worship God with people at the centre not the building.

Vision

Where are heading?

What is our dream?

Neh 2:17 Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.

Vision a definition: A picture of the future that produces passion.

Bill Hykels

Biblical perspective of vision - Follower

Missional perspective of vision - Leader

Spiritual perspective of vision - Steward

Break through the 'glass ceiling' where church is fully integrated in the community.

Fully spiritually united church who work together to achieve our vision for the future.

Step out of our comfort zone

To encourage everyone that they have a part to play in the church.

That all the people that use the church become involved in Church.

More families to be included not just on a Sunday.

After lunch, which was lovely. Rev Dave Fraser led the next session.

Dave led a session focused on the discernment from God and how this works with in Heaton Moor United Church and the wider community.

Some of the questions raised where:

What is good about Church?

What do you think it is the Holy Spirit is doing in HMUC?

How do we know it is from God?

What is the one thing that you are ill suited to do which God is calling you to do?

These questions led to a discussion covering many aspects of what have been discussed above and how it can be determined that God is the driver behind the things the church is already doing. It was challenging to quantify the presence of God in the work being under

taken now at the church. The key aspects that came of the discussion were.

That the church is caring and supportive to each other and this extends beyond in to the community, but we need to build on this. To achieve this, we may need to make compromises in trying to bridge the gap between the old and new. Skills required to achieve this may no longer be available within the church and we may need to look outside for help to assist in spreading the word of God.

A final question was asked:

What do you want to be doing?

Here are some of the responses:

Give to the poor

Get down to the 'nitty gritty' and into the real world

Step out of our comfort zone.

Spread the message.

Accommodate the homeless.

At the beginning of the day a model was presented to the group, there are still 3 areas to look at, they are:

Strategy

Structure

Review

Hopefully the day has provided the foundation in which to guide us to find a Strategy for the Church to move forward to plan a structure and constantly review to ensure that we grow in the name of Jesus.

Your Chance to have say.....

Do you have any ideas on how we can build the strategy to help the church grow?

If so, please write them down in the box below and hand it in to the office or e-mail your ideas to the office.

Ideas for Mission and Vision for Heaton Moor United Church