Hospers Campus Report and Key Priorities

We believe in this season that God is leading us to lean into our original vision as being a church for the unchurched and dechurched, and to live into the model of being one church in two locations.

Four Key Areas of Priority

After five years of ministry on the Hospers campus, we believe this is a season in which God is calling us to lean into our original vision as being a church for the unchurched and dechurched, and to live into the model of being one church in two locations. We sense the Holy Spirit leading us to give focus to the following four priorities as we move forward. One reason for this is how blessed we are that even with a pastoral transition, God placed Michael Fahrencruch in our congregation and his passions align with these priorities. Even as we look ahead to discerning our next campus pastor, we want to leverage having Michael as our Interim Campus Pastor in this season of transition.

Along with this, we will create new teams or leverage existing teams to be owners of the "Vision Path." This means to be mapping out specific "next steps" for each key priority for the next 3 to 12 months, and along with the strategy, to be thinking of what metrics we can look to to see if we are succeeding. Each priority will have its own Vision Path Team, however we want these 4 priorities to be the focus of *everyone* on the Hospers campus.

1. **Awareness - Increase the visibility of Trinity Hospers in the community and wider region.** Make our presence "known" and "felt" in the community. A marketing strategy that lets people know we are "here" and we love this community!

   Vision Path Team Leader: Andy Keller (Andy will assemble a team made up of people from both campuses who have gifts, passions and skills in this area).

2. **Connection - Create opportunities for connecting and belonging in a "bedroom community" where people often feel unseen or disconnected or simply don't know their neighbors.** Find ways to do this within the church (internal connections) and outside the walls of the church in the broader community.

Vision Path Team Leader: Laura Evink (we recommend the Hospers Fellowship Team be directly involved with this team).

3. **Discipleship - Train and equip disciples who are part of Trinity Hospers to love like Jesus.** To embrace messy people and messy situations. To live a missional lifestyle that doesn't aim to fix or judge people but points to Jesus in the midst of the mess.

   Vision Path Team Leader: Naboth Netten and Michael Fahrenbruch (we recommend the Hospers campus consistory be directly involved with this team).

4. **Witness - Develop a strategy for reaching and connecting with the unchurched and dechurched.** This will not be an "either/or " in terms of looking at events/programs and everyday missional relationships. It is "both/and." We will work to create events and invest in key programs/ministries that will move us toward the unchurched and dechurched. We will also challenge and equip people to see their everyday lives as the primary arena for missional engagement (and let this be just as much about who we ARE as what we DO).

   Vision Path Team Leader: TBD (we recommend key leaders of "Shelves of Hope" (the food box ministry) and Wednesday Night Kids' ministry be directly involved with this team).

What does this look like?

This can look a lot of different ways, and the specific next steps and strategies will be owned by our vision path teams. However, it is helpful to get a picture of ways we have seen these priorities in action in the past or as we look to upcoming opportunities.

Responding to community needs: This last summer when many homes were flooded in the community of Hospers, Trinity helped respond to the needs of neighbors. Along with that we held a burger feed as a way to bless the community and come together in the midst of hardship. We are working on how to respond to other community needs such as the recent fires and food needs through the Shelves of Hope food box ministry.

Partnering and connecting: We wanted to partner with a local business as a way to market but also bless the community of Hospers, so Trinity is sponsoring free coffee at

the Bickering Bakery on Feb 15th. We also plan on having someone from Trinity there to connect with the people that stop by.

Seeing the unseen: While many in the community are known and connected, there's a group of folks who feel unseen in the community. Commuters, kids, and transplants all live in this community, many don't have meaningful connections in Hospers. Children's ministry has been one way we've "seen" the unseen. We've started an AA group in the community of Hospers for those who need the support and accountability. We believe there are other ways we can lean into this as well.

What do we hope to see?

As we lean into our Key Ministry Priorities, we don't know what kind of fruit will come. However, here are some things we hope to see.

1. **Evidence of new learning.** We are gaining more information regarding our mission context. We are learning from other churches doing multi-site in a similar context.
2. **Evidence of high volunteer engagement (participation).**
3. **Vital missional opportunities/activities** with and for community (e.g., food boxes, etc.)
4. **Spiritual formation in the congregation** (classes, practices). Are we seeing evidence of personal transformation and the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit? Is there evidence of a culture change with embracing the unchurched? Do we see a shift from just attractional to a missional mental model?
5. **New leaders being identified, empowered and equipped.**
6. **Relationships with people being developed (**including relationships with people "outside" the church).
7. **Numerical and financial growth in the congregation**

Conclusion

These priorities and next steps have been discerned by a number of Trinity leaders, but we acknowledge that in our own strength and wisdom, our labors are in vain. We know that no amount of strategy or effort will make a lasting impact, but we are reassured that God is always working. Even as we name key priorities for this next season, we want to see what God is already up to in the Hospers area and to partner with Him in that work. We hope you will join us in these priorities as well, leveraging your gifts and relationships to make God known in our region and in our world.