

# Pisgah United Methodist Church

2582 Gastonia Highway  
Lincolnton, NC 28091

## Vision and Planning 5-10 Year Plan

Presented to Church Council August 14, 2011

Adopted as starting point for feasibility studies within the current structure of the church.

Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan



# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Report from Vision and Planning Group

The following persons participated in vision and planning from Feb. 2011 through July 2011

Danny and Betty Jo Barger

Terry and Beverly Smith

Linda Hosier

Sue Huss

Teresa and Inez Starr

Cale Thornburg

Kelvin Ross

Jeanette and Keith Hovis

Richard and Shelia Beeker

Ed and Judy Eurey

Daniel and Kris Baker

Richard and Patsy Smith

Anne Anthony

Robert and Pam Pearson

Calvin and Cathy Thornburg

Dakota Noland

June and Junior Loftin

Patti Macarelli

Tammy Price

Input also came ARK, Youth Leaders, Music Department, Lay Leadership and Senior Adults

## Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

A new mission and vision statement was adopted on June 12, 2011 by the Pisgah UMC Church Council.

**Our Mission:**  
**To Connect People to Christ**

**Our Vision:**  
To engage in following God into the future by pursuing those actions and ministries that attract people who are currently disconnected from church and to sustain current relationships through biblical preaching and teaching, dynamic and engaging worship, and providing opportunities for hands-on missions and outreach.

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

## Affinity Groups:

The vision and planning group created the following list of ministry areas around which the planning was developed. As shown in the following detail pages, many of the ministry areas overlap. (For example, technology and communications impact many areas of ministry, worship, community connections and outreach, facilities, etc. )

The group called these divisions, "Affinity Groups," and persons were asked to concentrate and study in a ministry area to which they had an "affinity." As each area was studied, the goal of the group was to tie the plans and ideas back to our new vision statement. The group went forward on the belief that God has given Pisgah a new vision for the future. (For example, when the group studied the future of worship, it considered that our new vision indicates that Pisgah will engage in "dynamic and engaging" worship, which in turn required considering technology as it impacts worship.)

## Groups

Community Connections and Outreach

Technology and Communications

Facilities

Worship

Hands-On Mission

Young Adult Ministries

Biblical Teaching

Senior's Ministries

Children's Ministries

Youth Ministries

The group discussed various ways that ministry tasks within these affinity groups could be folded into our current committee structure. No consensus was reached within the group as to exactly how it will be done. As we go forward into the feasibility and implementation phase of the planning, more consideration will be necessary to determine what kinds of action groups would best accomplish particular projects and ministries, the 3rd phase of our vision and planning.

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

## Community Connections and Outreach

A vital component to Pisgah's mission is outreach to the Long Shoals community. As we have been involved in seeking God's vision, it became clear that Pisgah UMC has had a greater connection to the community surrounding the church in the past. We believe that God is calling us to reconnect to the community through the development of programs which will attract people who are currently disconnected from the church through offering ministry programs, additional worship, tutoring for children, health related opportunities and other community outreach.

## Technology and Communications

Everyone in the vision and planning group agrees that communication is vital to the church. Pisgah UMC currently communicates with members and the community with a monthly newsletter called the Pisgah Press, a telephone calling program called the Phonetree, weekly service bulletins, weekly DVDs to shut-ins, Sunday worship announcements, Facebook site, developing webpage and calendar, and pastor Judy's "Enotes" and e-mails.

The vision and planning group discovered that the continued development of technology will be essential to our future growth. Technology impacts all areas of our ministry both inside and outside the church. Upgrades and updates will continue to be needed as we move into the future. Good digital communication will continue to be an important factor for the future spiritual growth and well-being of our youth and children as well as for outreach and evangelism.

## Facilities

Those studying the church facilities at Pisgah UMC realized that the church has several issues to deal with over the next 5 to 10 years. Because the visioning and planning group believes that God wants Pisgah UMC to remain vital and grow, and the fact that our current trend is down, the group believes there is a need for additional worship service.

Statistics indicate that once a worship space is filled to 80% capacity (the 80% rule<sup>1</sup>), there will be very limited increase in worship attendance. Reason? New comers and visitors feel crowded. Unfortunately this statistic has proven to be true for Pisgah UMC over the last 30 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Maris McCollum. "The 80% Rule: Fact or Fiction." Congregation Magazine. The Alban Institute. 2004. <http://www.alban.org/>.  
Summary and Overview

## Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

The Pisgah UMC sanctuary comfortably holds approximately 175 persons making 80% of our capacity around 140. The average worship attendance in 1981 was 115, which rose to a high of 135 in 1994. Worship attendance has been steadily falling since 2001. We reported our average worship attendance in 2010 at 109, though membership has increased from 236 in 1981 to 256 in 2010.

Secondly, upgrades to the current sanctuary are necessary to accommodate those persons who are physically challenged, specifically the entrance area of the church needs to be redesigned to provide for bathrooms which are handicapped accessible, and a covered entrance built so that persons can drive up and off load physically challenged worshipers.

The affinity group who studied Pisgah UMC's facilities were also faced with several complicated factors involving the piece of property adjacent to the church campus which most church members call the Rhyne property. The church felt that God provided funds at the appropriate time in order for this property to be purchased and believe that God intends for Pisgah UMC to use the property for outreach and evangelistic purposes.

At the time the property was purchased, many ideas were circulating about what exactly should be done with it. Therefore, the vision and planning group prayerfully considered what should be the course of action regarding the Rhyne property. Two main questions surfaced during the discussions: 1) should the house on the property be used as is for small group meetings, storage, office space, new ministries, etc. 2) should the house on the property be razed in anticipation of building an additional structure to accommodate future ministries.

One hundred percent consensus from the planning group was reached regarding the development of the Rhyne property. The group does not believe that the church should invest any money in maintaining, updating, or improving the house located on the Rhyne property. The consensus after much prayer and discussion was that the buildings on the Rhyne property should be razed or sold and moved in order to make room for building a Family Life Center in five years, and utilizing the acreage to build a sports recreation field and walking trail.

### Worship

The affinity group studying worship recommends the development of the 2nd worship service which would be designed to attract persons who are currently disconnected from church. The group recommends that Pisgah UMC put together a design team who will work with the pastor to develop a 2nd worship within 1 year.

### Hands-on Mission

## Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Drawing from the discernment and visioning retreat where God revealed to those present that Pisgah UMC's future includes hands-on mission. The affinity group fielded ideas related to missions outside of the church which were hands-on, where individuals actually go beyond the church rather than stay home and send money.

The group developed ideas around both local missions and non-local missions. Local missions are those ministries which connect to the local community. The group identified the development of "helping" missions and "evangelical" missions. The group believes that these ideas are just the beginning of the types of missions Pisgah UMC may be involved in over the next 2 to 5 years, and that God will reveal much more that can be done.

Non-local missions will be Pisgah's opportunity to work with God in the transformation of the world beyond our backyard.

### Young Adult Ministries

It was discovered by the vision and planning group that Pisgah UMC offers few opportunities for spiritual growth and leadership formation to young adults (20-40yoa) in the church and the community. Therefore, ideas began to flow into this sparse area of ministry. The young adult ministries affinity group believes that in order to attract younger families with children,( which is to be the fastest growing demographic of individuals over the next 5 to 10 years), the church must seize the opportunity to be in ministry for and with people in this age group.

### Biblical Teaching

The affinity group who studied biblical teaching and preaching considered the importance and impact of learning from God's word. They looked at how over the last 30 years Sunday school attendance has dropped from an average of 135 per week to 40 per week. Though the group identified several additional avenues for Bible study, the consensus was that more emphasis should be placed on developing studies, Sunday school programs, technological upgrades, etc. so that God can touch lives through the study of God's word.

In addition to Bible study, biblical teaching and preaching, the group also encouraged increased opportunities for spiritual development and leadership training particularly for young adults, married couples, and singles.

### Seniors Ministries

## Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

When considering seniors ministries, the group discovered that Pisgah serves seniors through Sunday school, DVD players and DVDs of worship services, social activity group called the Happy Timers, etc. One important area of concern was the accessibility of our facilities at Pisgah UMC. The group also recommended offering technology learning labs and workshops for seniors.

### Children's Ministries

Children's ministries at Pisgah UMC have been a vital ministry for the church. The ARK children's ministry has provided for the ongoing spiritual development of his Pisgah's children. It is important that this vital ministry continues to be supported financially, through the development of technology, training and on-going outreach.

### Youth Ministries

Pisgah UMC is blessed with children and youth. The affinity group who studied youth ministries has determined an increased need for technological upgrades, the development of sports leagues, enhancement of programs and facilities which accommodate the spiritual development of Pisgah's youth.

In addition, the group believes that God is calling Pisgah UMC to offer more programs to this segment of the church and community, such things which will attract and connect young people, children and parents to a life in Christ . Such connections will be made through the building of relationships with area youth through a dynamic and Christ centered youth group, activities and trips, missions and retreats, sports, music and drama, youth-friendly worship opportunities, etc.

### Detailed Sheets

Attached are the details of the planning for the next 5 to 10 years. The group tried to anticipate the time frame, and the requirements for each specific area of ministry. The detailed sheets are divided by affinity group and as previously mentioned, sometimes overlap.

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Connections to Community	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs				
	2012	2013	2017	2022	People	Space	Money	
<p>Connection or re-connection to the community is a high priority and Pisgah has the following plans for connecting to the community and connecting people to Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and build walking trail on Rhyne property campus</li> <li>• Offer exercise classes (Zumba mentioned)</li> <li>• Develop Mothers' morning out</li> <li>• Develop Parents Date Night</li> <li>• Yearly Health Fair</li> <li>• Tutoring</li> <li>• Contemporary Worship (2nd service aimed at drawing persons who are not currently connected to church)</li> <li>• Community Clothes Closet</li> <li>• Community Food Pantry</li> </ul> <p>Reconnection to community plans are also highlighted in other areas of planning.</p>	☺				☺		☺	*Work with community volunteers on Health Fairs
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# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Technology and Communications	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs				
	2012	2013	2017	2022	People	Space	Money	
<p>Communications: Currently Pisgah UMC's communication outlets include a monthly newsletter with calendar of upcoming events which is mailed to all members and constituents who want to receive it; weekly worship bulletins; phone tree for announcements as needed; continuing development of Internet webpage with events calendar, and information. Distribution of worship services on DVD to shut-ins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued development of Internet webpage as needed</li> <li>Electronic sign for scrolling messages to be placed where current church sign is now located</li> </ul>	☺	☺			☺ ☺		☺	Web-page designer/manager.
<p>Technology: Currently Pisgah UMC's technology includes audio-visual ministry team which handles the audio during worship, including the recording of all services to DVD, CD accompaniment, sound systems operation for services and music.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship services uploaded to web</li> <li>High speed Internet access campus wide</li> <li>Projector system to accommodate communications, announcements and worship visuals (Plan and spend once)</li> <li>Access Bridge for network connections across campus</li> <li>Develop endowment fund for technology (purchases and upgrades)</li> <li>Mini laptop cart with minimum of 12 computers for ministries</li> <li>✓ learning labs for seniors who want to develop computer skills</li> <li>✓ tutoring outlet for youth and children</li> <li>✓ computer workshops</li> </ul>	☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	☺ ☺			☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺		☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	Web manager required.

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Facilities	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs	People	Space	Money	
	2012	2013	2017	2022				
<p>Currently Pisgah has three pieces of property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rock church and education building, parking lot and cemetery located at 2582 Gaston Hwy, Lincolnton, NC consisting of 6.435 acres. Property value \$825,333. this property is the main church campus, where generally all of church ministry activities take place. There is a small playground on the property and an additional parking lot at the back of the educational building.</li> <li>Property located at 2610 Gastonia Hwy, Lincolnton, NC which consists of 4.607 acres and a 2284 square house, built in 1925. Property value \$118, 236. This property was purchased in 2008 as a future site for ministry activities.</li> <li>Property located at 3191 Brady Hoffman Rd, Lincolnton, NC; the church parsonage; .46 acres. Located at this property is a 38 passenger church bus and shed. Property value \$188,846</li> </ul>								
<p><u>Uses of Facilities and Future Plans</u></p> <p>Currently: Worship space in sanctuary accommodates 1 traditional worship service. Room for 150 seated comfortably. Adequate sound system for music, speakers and 4-6 vocalists. Air-conditioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attain architectural services for a design for a new entrance to current sanctuary. The goal is to have covered and handicapped access to sanctuary and to build handicapped accessible bathrooms on the main sanctuary level. (Our current bathrooms have limited access from sanctuary and pose an undue, and potentially embarrassing situation for handicapped persons and visitors.)</li> </ul>	☺	☺			☺		☺	Project Group to develop plan for redesign and presentation to trustees for approval (outside of trustees area of responsibility)

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<p>Currently: Continue to utilize the fellowship hall for ARK, fellowship meals, special events, bible studies, community activities, meetings, Quilting group, Happy Timers, Roll Modelers, etc. Encourage using space for community connections. Spread usage of building to fuller weekly schedule.</p>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare, update and utilize the fellowship hall to accommodate new community connection ministries such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Weekly Exercise Classes</li> <li>✓ Community Blood Drive</li> <li>✓ Potential Worship Service</li> <li>✓ Mother's Morning Out</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	😊	😊			😊		😊	Join with Red Cross
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop location and accommodations for 2nd worship service, contemporary in style. (Sanctuary or other space.) Space equipped with audio/visual capacity (Screens, projection, room for praise band and vocalists, access to Internet)</li> </ul>	😊	😊			😊	😊	😊	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding the Rhyne property. Consensus from planning group is that the house not become a financial drain on the church. All money that would be used for maintenance, upkeep and renovations should be placed into a building fund for a Family Life Center (Plans yet to be detailed.) Therefore the house should be removed, either by selling and moving it, or razing it. (Contact must be made with the UMC Properties division for proceeding with this.) Land prepared for future use. (It was noted that one original reason for purchase was to protect the property for future use.)</li> </ul>	😊	😊			😊		😊	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop area for sports, soccer, ball, etc.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop walking/exercise trail</li> <li>✓ Community garden spaces</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	😊	😊			😊	😊	😊	Project Sub-group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a family life center on Rhyne property</li> <li>• Assemble a planning group to investigate the viability of building a family life center, including size, style, cost, time-frame, etc.</li> </ul>	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Project Sub-group

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

<p>Currently keep and maintain Pisgah bus in working order. According to parents, riding the Pisgah bus is a highlight for the kids. When the ARK takes a trip, the bus is not currently sufficient to hold all of them, and there is disappointment for those who do not get to ride.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When bus usage exceeds capacity, rent additional vehicles for transportation, rather than purchase another bus.</li> </ul>	😊	😊			😊			
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# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Worship	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs				
	2012	2013	2017	2022	People	Space	Money	
<p>Currently Pisgah has one worship service that begins at 10:30AM on Sunday morning. It is a traditional service, with hymns, organ and piano music, with choir and/or special musical anthems.</p> <p>Worship ministry is supported by a volunteer organist, pianist, audio-visual technicians and choir director.</p> <p>Hand Bell ministry meets from Sept. through Easter and performs 2 times per year.</p> <p>Additionally Pisgah has special worship services which are shared with other community churches: Easter services, Thanksgiving services. Special services are also held on Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop 2nd Worship Service</li> <li>• Enhance Arts, Altar Guild</li> <li>• Promotion of special gifts and talents in worship</li> <li>• Development of Lay Speaking ministry involving young adults and youth speakers</li> <li>• Move older children back into worship through participation in worship and engaging Children's church to children 1st grade and under.</li> <li>• Begin Children's Choir and Bell Ringers for Children</li> </ul>								
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# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Hands-on Mission	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs	People	Space	Money	
	2012	2013	2017	2022				
<p>Currently Pisgah UMC has been involved in missions through a special offering for local missions each month. The "hands-on" mission projects have been minimal (work at Christian ministries, soup kitchen, and helping with local building projects).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlist a missions coordinator (person gifted and passionate for missions)</li> </ul> <p><u>Local Missions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a list of local ministries to which members can volunteer and/or give donations (the how, when, where and why of each ministry)</li> <li>Creation of a Missions Brochure detailing the opportunities for local missions and ministries supported by our church</li> <li>Develop organized and scheduled visits to homebound persons in the community (both church members and non-church members)</li> <li>Develop a greater involvement with UMAR Visiting with, and worshipping with members of UMAR homes in Lincolnton (see facilities for accessibility) Birthday celebrations</li> <li>Secure, develop and keep updated a Missions Bulletin Board</li> <li>Highlight missions and ministry opportunity information in sanctuary before worship. This could be done with a weekly/monthly highlight moment, or on via videos projected on screen (see facilities</li> </ul>	☺				☺			
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# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

and technological plans)							
<b>Develop Helping Missions</b>							
• Ideas for community connection							
✓ Soup Kitchen, food pantry on wheels	😊	😊			😊		😊
✓ Yard work mission teams to help out seniors and disabled persons	😊	😊			😊		😊
✓ Pie Day (connecting with seniors to make a pie together)	😊	😊			😊		😊
✓ Free weekly meals for community	😊	😊			😊		😊
✓ Pet walking/ blessing services		😊			😊		😊
✓ Search and Recover teams for Disaster Recovery			😊		😊		😊
<b>Evangelical Missions (Neighborhood Involvement)</b>							
• Ideas for Evangelical Outreach							
✓ Block Party	😊				😊		😊
✓ Puppet Ministry	😊				😊		😊
✓ VBS/Sunday or Saturday School at a location beyond the church	😊				😊		😊
✓ Apple Festival Booth	😊	😊			😊		😊
<u><b>Non-Local Missions</b></u>							
• Develop resources for mission opportunities for non-local missions	😊				😊		😊
• Develop plan for non-local mission trip (continued yearly)	😊				😊		😊

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Young Adult Ministries (18yoa and up)	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs				
	2012	2013	2017	2022	People	Space	Money	
<p>Currently there are few ministries offered for young adults at Pisgah. (This age group is currently the fastest growing in our demographic.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop vibrant and interesting Sunday School classes for young adults with current technology (videos, music) and trained teachers</li> <li>• Start a Mother's/Father's Morning Out (Opportunity for parents leave their children for a specified time period, as they go to run errands or take care of outside-the-home responsibilities.)</li> <li>• Date-Night Ministry (Where the kids can be left at a church sponsored event while parents enjoy a night out together.)</li> <li>• Develop opportunity for spiritual growth (singles and married-couple retreats).</li> <li>• Offer opportunities for leadership development</li> <li>• Offer financial freedom training</li> </ul>	☺	☺			☺		☺	
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# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Biblical Teaching	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs				
	2012	2013	2017	2022	People	Space	Money	
<p>Currently at Pisgah, Sunday School, which has classes for all age groups is the basis of biblical teaching at Pisgah along with one women's Bible Study group (Beth Moore).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin gathering time on Sunday morning prior to Sunday school. At this gathering offer coffee and a light meal for children.</li> <li>• Consider a later start time for Sunday School</li> <li>• Investigate Rotation Sunday School for children to enhance Sunday School participation.</li> <li>• Develop vibrant Sunday School classes for young adults</li> <li>• Offer skills classes for potential and current Sunday School teachers. (Often noted that the reason people are reluctant to teach Sunday School is because of insufficient training.)</li> <li>• Develop Internet access for classroom usage</li> <li>• Upgrade Audio/visual capacity for classroom usage</li> <li>• Develop a Mid-week Bible Study for Adults</li> <li>• Move older children back into worship through participation in worship and engaging Children's church to children 1st grade and under.</li> <li>• Offer relationship building retreats for young adults, married couples, singles, for spiritual development</li> </ul>	☺				☺		☺	
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Seniors (100yoa and down)	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs	People	Space	Money	
	2012	2013	2017	2022				
<p>Seniors are served at Pisgah through the Sunday School program. For those who are not able to attend Sunday School or Worship, the church provides a DVD of services and a DVD player to anyone who desire them. Additionally the Happy Timers, an ecumenical social group which meets monthly, provides an avenue of fun and fellowship. Also, from the nurture group, seniors who are home bound and alone during the day get a call to check on them once a day. The Pisgah Phonetree keeps seniors, who do not get to church regularly, or have computer access or experience, informed of church activities, meetings, and fellowship events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide better handicapped accessibility (See facilities)</li> <li>• Learning labs or workshops for seniors who want to develop computer skills</li> </ul>	<p>☺ ☺</p>	<p>☺ ☺</p>			<p>☺ ☺</p>		<p>☺ ☺</p>	

# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

Children's Ministries (0-5th grade)	Target Year				Requires			Other Info/detail/people
	1yrs	2yrs	5yrs	10yrs	People	Space	Money	
	2012	2013	2017	2022				
<p>Currently children are served through the Sunday School, which meets at 9:30a.m. and has classes for all ages. In addition, children are mentored, taught, and served through the ARK (Adults Reaching Kids) program which began 6 years ago. The ARK is a Sunday evening gathering, where children are taught in age appropriate groupings, and have a meal together. ARK runs from September through May of each year and is geared to children from 3 years to grade 5.</p> <p>Additionally VBS runs for one week in the summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate Rotation Sunday School to enhance Sunday School participation.</li> <li>• Revamp Children's church to keep children older than 1st grade in worship</li> <li>• Tutoring Opportunities</li> <li>• Develop Children's choir and Hand Bell Ringers</li> </ul>								
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# Pisgah United Methodist Church 5-10 Year Plan

## Recommendation Vision and Planning Group

It is recommended that Pisgah UMC Church Council review, discuss and accept the plan developed by the visioning and planning group and move to the 3rd phase of vision and planning: ~~Implementation.~~

Motion as presented to the council was to "to accept the 5-10 year plan as a starting point for feasibility studies within the current structure of the church." The church Council approved the motion.

(Phase IV is Yearly Evaluation)