

# Report of the Vision Team of the First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield, Illinois

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## We gather... as a caring, inclusive community of God's people

As we pursue the way of Christ, we open our doors to the community of Deerfield and beyond, intentionally welcoming people of all ages and interests through our worship, our programming, and our outreach.

In worship

- We are a progressive, evolving Christian church that celebrates a common faith expressed through different worship styles.
- We value the occasions when we all worship together as a unified congregation.
- Our worship challenges our minds and fills our hearts, meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation with relevant, dynamic preaching, inspiring music, and member participation.

In fellowship

- We are energized by a variety of spiritual, social, and service opportunities that foster friendships, offer each member a niche, and promote intergenerational community.
- We celebrate our congregation's range of life-styles, worship preferences, family structures, ages, and interests and work to create flexible structures so more can participate within the constraints of time, distance, and schedules.

Through outreach

- As faithful stewards of our resources, we use our space to benefit the larger community, engage in practices that protect the environment, and use our talents by encouraging active participation.
- We maintain state-of-the-art communication practices that make our resources known to our members and to the community-at-large.

## to grow... as spiritually vibrant, inquiring people of faith

Our education and service programs emphasize faith development, meeting the needs of participants wherever they are on their faith journey.

- Our active adult education program and small group offerings encourage thoughtful inquiry, taking the Bible seriously and helping people live their lives gratefully and generously.
- Our dynamic youth program welcomes all children and youth providing them with both a challenging Christian education and a supportive Christian community.
- Our preschool, Christian Beginnings, educates our youngest in a safe, nurturing Christian environment.

Our care-giving ministry lovingly nurtures and supports our congregation; our leadership team inspires us to grow in our faith.

We are a robust, numerically growing congregation with new members assimilated into our life and work.

We maintain fiscally sound practices that support our programs, and our staff, and our facilities.

## to go... into the world as disciples of Christ with hearts and hands for others.

We stress an active living of our faith through responsive ministries that call members to lead and serve.

We work for justice and peace, engage people of all ages in hands-on mission and service projects, and empower those whom we encounter; we recognize that we are enriched as well by these endeavors.

We are generous in support of mission partners locally and globally.

We play a leadership role in community life, engaging in inclusive dialogue and service with our neighbors.

## FPCD - What we look like today

With its outstanding facilities, vibrant programs, and large core of volunteers, First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield is a busy place. On most Monday evenings you'll find committee meetings in any number of rooms as well as a Boy Scout troop in the undercroft. Tuesdays bring 200 youth and many parent volunteers for TNT—dinner, choir, Bible study and fellowship for school-age youth. Later in the evening adults head to the church for a pastor-led Bible study or Spiritual Cinema. On Wednesdays, like all other weekdays, you might see a group of preschoolers from Christian Beginnings walking to the park or enjoying "Lunch Bunch" in the Loft. On Wednesday evenings the church is filled with music as the praise band and various choirs rehearse. Thursdays bring adult Bible Study groups in both the morning and the afternoon. On a Friday night you might find 30-40 junior high kids at Friday Night Fun, a fellowship program open to any junior high age students in the community. Saturdays bring the men's fellowship breakfast, blood drives, volunteers preparing for Sunday services, karate and other community-sponsored classes. Periodically you will find Presbyterian Women meeting in large and small groups for study, fellowship, and mission projects.

Of course on Sunday you'll find people of all ages coming and going from one of our two traditional services or our Celebration service, enjoying coffee and treats at Fellowship Café, and catching up with friends. Some spend the whole morning at FPCD, attending both education class and a service of their choosing. On Sunday afternoons we open our doors to the Southeast Asian Presbyterian Church which holds its Sunday service in our building.

First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield is a busy place, with its many activities sustained by a dedicated staff and a large number of volunteers. Our Session members work to keep things running smoothly. The following pages provide a snapshot of the various committees and their roles within the church.



## a snapshot of Session committees

### Administrative Council

- Personnel
- Finance
- Properties
- Foundation
- Memorials

### Worship Council

- Music
- Wedding Guild
- Celebration Worship Committee
- Ushers
- Funeral Hospitality

### Outreach

Increases awareness and expands the reach of church activities into the community to stimulate interest and attract new members

### Time, Talent, and Treasure

Plans and executes annual stewardship campaigns. Identifies talents and interests of members and helps to assimilate them into the life of the congregation

## Christian Education

**Christian Beginnings**—Preschool providing both half-day school programs as well as full day care program for ages 2-5.

**Children's Ministries**—plans and implements programming for newborns through fifth grade. Programs include Children in Worship, Sunday School, Church Fun Fair, Communion Workshop, and the annual Christmas pageant.

**Junior High Ministries**—plans and implements programming for grades six through eight. Programs include Confirmation, summer mission trip, retreats, Friday Night Fun, Sunday School, Lock-in, and mission fundraising activities.

**Senior High Ministries**—plans and implements programming for grades nine to twelve. Programs include summer mission trip to Mexico, Oak Terrace outreach, Sundays on Site Bible study, Turkey Bowl, ski trip and Sunday School.

**Tuesday Nights Together(TNT)**—provides over 200 youth (grades 1-12) from the church community with an opportunity for fellowship, Bible study, dinner, choir, mission and fun! Program runs most Tuesdays from September through March.

**Adult Education**—plans and implements educational programming for the adults of the church. A variety of programs are offered on Sunday mornings as well as during the week. Weekly programs include Tuesday a.m. Bible Study, Spiritual Cinema, and Faith and Fellowship Study Groups. Monthly programs include Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Book Group.



### Nominating Committee

Generates slates for elders and deacons, as well as other special committees as needed

### Fellowship Council

- Board of Deacons--provides care for all members of the congregation. Is responsible for Fellowship Cafe on Sunday mornings as well as several other fellowship events throughout the year
- Presbyterian Women--provides opportunities for group study and fellowship through monthly meetings, mission projects, Christmas parties, and end-of-the-year luncheons
- Elder's Association
- Greeters



### Mission Involvement includes:

- Financial and volunteer support of many organizations by the Mission Service Council, Presbyterian Women, and Foundation
- Youth and adult mission trips
- Youth council special mission projects
- Friends of Atabubu (Ghana)
- Peacemaking

## history highlights

One hundred thirty-four years ago, six Christian believers met to form the Deerfield Presbyterian Society, the first English language faith community in Deerfield. Presbyterian congregations in Highland Park and Lake Forest assisted. During the following winter, a church was built and the congregation began to grow. In its steeple was a 300-pound cast iron bell to call villagers and farmers to Sunday worship. That bell was replaced in 1967 by a 10-ton bronze bell that continues to welcome everyone to join us as we praise God.

The bells' transition from 300 pounds to 10 tons took over a century and a third. In a way, it parallels the energy and achievement of Deerfield Presbyterians on their faith journey through those same 134 years.

Times were challenging for the new church during the last decades of the 19th century, but by 1903 it was able to call its first full time pastor. Steady growth followed, as members learned to serve each other and the world outside.

The Board of Deacons was established in 1951. By the 1960's, there was an increased emphasis on children and youth with Youth Academy, Youth Club, children's choirs for all ages, youth mission trips and, with these, additional staff. This emphasis continues to the present time.

In 1971, the first female elder was elected. In 1973 a Christian Nursery School, later renamed Christian Beginnings, was formed. Also in the 70's, a new passion for foreign mission was created with support for efforts in Mexico, Jamaica, India, China, Korea, and West Africa, many of which continue today. In 1973 senior high members left on the first annual mission trip. The first junior high mission trip was in 1992.

In 2004 mission outreach took on a new dimension with adult work trips to Ghana, the adoption of the Ghanaian village of Atebubu, and the establishment of Friends of Atebubu, a fund raising and support group open to the full Deerfield community.

Worship, always the heart of our existence, was expanded in 2000 with the Celebration Service established as an integral part of church programming.

## the community

In 1876 the population of Deerfield was about 200 people. There were two stores, a two-story, two-room schoolhouse, a blacksmith, a harness shop, a post office, and two Protestant churches whose services were conducted in German. It was farm country, far beyond the direct influence of the booming city of Chicago. The new railroad provided transportation, but the concept of suburban commuting was decades away.

The community was incorporated as the Village of Deerfield in 1903. Growth continued to be modest: the 1910 Census totaled 426, in 1920 it was 610. The years following World War I brought a growth spike and population tripled to 1,852 in 1920. But during decades of the Great Depression (30's) and World War II (40's) growth slowed. By 1950 there were 3,288 people, an average increase of just 4% per year.

And then came the Boom Years. During the 20-year period of the 50's and 60's, four new families moved to Deerfield every week ... as fast as new homes could be built. By 1970 the population had risen to 18,867. During the period, local school and government officials were able to keep up, even to excel, by providing a desirable environment for family life. Deerfield became one of the more desirable suburbs in the northern part of the metropolitan area.

Nearby villages--Riverwoods, Bannockburn, Lincolnshire, Highland Park, Northbrook, and Lake Forest-- experienced similar growth.

In 1960, a church census led by Presbyterians indicated the religious affiliations of the Deerfield community to be 70% Protestant, 27% Roman Catholic, and 3% Jewish. Almost 27% of Protestant families reported a Presbyterian connection of some kind. Although a similar church census has not been taken in recent years, informed opinion concludes the proportions today are about 35% Protestant, 25% Roman Catholic and 40% Jewish.

As these demographic changes have evolved, the horizons of the First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield have broadened to include communities as far as 20 miles from the Deerfield.

Deerfield was once a tiny village of white Protestant shop owners and farmers. Today it is a multi-denominational suburb with Catholics, Jews, and Protestants of many denominations. It is a community where harmony and cooperation are values shared by all.

## church membership

By any measure The First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield was a small, struggling congregation during its first 25 years. Established in 1876, it had a full time pastor only during its first year. For the next 26 years it "made do" with student pastors and visiting clergy from nearby churches. Elder Lyman Wilmot and Mrs. L.C. Hole were instrumental in keeping the doors open during that period. In 1903 Elders Frank and Clark led a house-to-house campaign in the village and recruited 33 new members, 16 by affirmation of faith and 17 by letter of transfer. This new vigor emboldened the congregation to call its first full time pastor. Steady growth in membership followed. By 1920 there were 115 church members and a Sunday School membership of 229. Progress continued through the 1940's.

The church grew rapidly after World War II as the Deerfield community expanded. There were 375 members in 1950, 535 in 1955, 811 in 1958, 1,411 in 1963, 2,147 in 1968, and 2,370 in 1970.

New members kept coming during the 1970's and 1980's, but at a slower rate. Total membership actually declined during this period due to a thorough review of the church rolls to remove families who had moved away, students who had grown up and left home, and others who had ceased to attend.

In the 1980's, faced with a declining Christian population in Deerfield, efforts were made to become a regional church. New members were welcomed from Lincolnshire, Vernon Hills, Grayslake, and Buffalo Grove where there were few mainline Protestant churches, as well as worshipers from parts of Lake Forest and Highland Park who lived closer to the Deerfield church than to the Presbyterian churches in their own towns. The current geographic distribution of members is: Deerfield – 55%, Bannockburn – 3%, Riverwoods – 4%, Lincolnshire – 7%, Lake Forest – 7%, Highland Park – 5%, Vernon Hills – 4%, Buffalo Grove – 2%, Grayslake – 1%, Northbrook – 1%, other northern suburbs – 8%, out-of-state – 3%.

Total membership for recent years shows slow decline: 1,105 in 1990, 938 in 2000, 831 in 2009.

## facilities

Within the first year of its existence, the First Presbyterian Church had its own building in downtown Deerfield. The structure was built during the winter of 1876-77 by C.W. Pettis and his brother-in-law, Walter Langdon, who donated their services as carpenters. This helped reduce the cash outlay for the church to \$1,252. The new church building was dedicated on August 14, 1877.

From that small 0.2 acre lot, the church's property has been expanded to nearly two acres. The sanctuary, dedicated in 1963, and related structures built later now enclose nearly 64,000 square feet. The church has a prominent presence in downtown Deerfield.

The first building in 1876 was a simple frame church with no plumbing or central heating. A modest addition was built in 1912 to provide more Sunday School space and to improve the heating.

Two years later, the Community House, a former church just south of the southeast corner of Deerfield and Waukegan Roads, was purchased. It was used for the growing youth membership of the congregation and as a resource for the community because no other facility of this size existed in the village.

In 1923 the original church was sold and removed and a beautiful English Tudor style church was built. While the building fund had been oversubscribed in 1923, financial difficulties in the 1930's delayed repayment until 1946.

By the mid-1950's church members began to develop a long term plan to fulfill the needs of the growing congregation. The first step was to build a Christian Education building, completed in 1957.

In 1962, the congregation authorized the second step in the plan: a major building fund drive for \$300,000 to construct a new sanctuary. It was dedicated in November 1963.

The final steps in the long term plan were an all-purpose building with a church parlor, offices, meeting rooms and utilities, and the Founders' Tower. These were dedicated 1967.

The expansions of the 1960's – Class Room building, Sanctuary, All-Purpose building, and Tower – gave Deerfield Presbyterians the facilities to prosper for the next 40 years.

In 2002 planning began to determine if facilities should be expanded further to become handicap accessible and to provide additional classrooms, spaces for small group worship, meetings, church dinners, and contemporary services. In 2004 the congregation authorized a capital fund drive for a new multi-use building addition to be built on the site of the 1923 Chapel. Construction began in 2007. The addition was dedicated in August, 2008.

With our facilities now complete, The First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield has one of the most modern and useable structures in the Chicago Presbytery.

We as a church are concerned about the slow, steady decrease in membership, attendance, and financial support. Our hope is to grow, but not for growth's sake. We place high priority on building on our many strengths and working to increase involvement and commitment to FPCD as we strive to grow in faith and do the Lord's work. In particular we hope to ...

Develop a collaborative leadership model among staff, session, and other laity that challenges and empowers us to achieve our Vision.

Maintain excellence in preaching and teaching, but increase awareness of the educational programs to the larger community and encourage participation by non-members.

Continue excellence in programs for youth of all ages, but work to actively involve parents in multiple aspects of the life of the church.

Continue the traditions of a strong music program, but reinvigorate the adult choir program.

Maintain the personal ministries of the church involving members and face-to-face groups as well as pastoral staff in active caregiving and support, especially for people in life transitions and health crises.

Become more welcoming.

Assimilate new members into the life of the church.

Create a stronger sense of "oneness" within the membership, regardless of the worship service we attend, our life situation, our interests, or our faith background.

Develop a variety of opportunities for member participation in fellowship, education, church service, and mission activities and thereby growing members' commitment to FPCD.

Celebrate and extend mission activities organized by the Mission Service Council, the Youth Council, Presbyterian Women, Friends of Atebubu, and others. Return to historical levels of church financial support of mission activities.

Improve communication within FPCD and between FPCD and the larger community.

Appropriately maintain our church facility.

Be recognized as a leader in the local community.

# First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield: The Numbers

First Presbyterian Church, Deerfield, IL

Synod: Lincoln Trails

Presbytery: Chicago

PIN# 1649

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Members	913	917	938	885	908	954	909	886	770	834	837
Females	523	547	553	543	536	559	531	514	447	483	488
Prof. Faith Gains < 17	22	22	21	28	17	22	23	14	28	14	24
Prof. Faith Gains > 18	13	21	14	31	21	19	21	10	16	11	17
Prof. Faith Losses	35	43	35	59	38	41	44	24	44	25	41
Certificate Gains	19	5	18	14	7	11	18	2	9	4	5
Other Gains	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	61	0
Total Gains	55	48	53	73	45	57	62	26	53	90	46
Certificate Losses	13	20	15	11	2	3	12	6	10	6	10
Deaths	5	5	7	6	7	8	12	8	8	7	17
Other Losses	62	19	10	109	13	0	83	35	151	13	16
Total Losses	80	44	32	126	22	11	107	49	169	26	43
Infant Baptisms	10	12	15	6	14	0	14	10	8	6	8
Adult Baptisms	2	3	4	3	0	0	4	1	2	5	0
Christian Education Enrollment	492	563	507	514	636	672	689	663	660	659	673
Inactives	92	46	26	68	106	106	182	165	222	106	119
Baptized Members	183	120	134	148	116	113	117	113	99	117	121
Adherents	1,188	1,083	1,098	1,101	1,130	1,173	1,208	1,164	1,091	1,057	1,077
Worship Attendance	450	400	351	395	394	357	433	380	369	335	340
Contributions (\$)	938,218.00		863,136.00	1,103,550.00	1,012,753.00	967,787.00	990,489.00	943,000.00	923,000.00	871,300.00	820,000.00
Building (\$)							75,000.00	806,000.00	1,180,000.00	1,012,179.00	500,000.00
Bequests (\$)				21,479.00	16,283.00	29,409.00					
Investment Income (\$)	20,371.00		33,165.00	38,280.00	35,674.00	29,798.00	30,462.00	41,000.00	55,000.00	62,744.00	16,000.00
Other Income (\$)	16,040.00		365,848.00	19,702.00	19,154.00	18,430.00	6,676.00	7,000.00	5,000.00	13,661.00	57,000.00
Local Program (\$)	802,794.00		1,176,641.00	929,245.00	871,426.00	920,399.00	92,653.00	847,000.00	840,000.00	877,400.00	896,000.00
Local Mission (\$)	29,630.00		11,743.00	8,683.00	38,752.00	53,350.00	64,889.00	60,000.00	72,000.00	51,843.00	27,000.00
Capital Expenditures (\$)								25,000.00			
Investment Expenditures (\$)							3,367.00				
Per Capita Apportionment (\$)	17,374.00		18,876.00	18,138.00	20,345.00	19,718.00	20,775.00	22,600.00	22,300.00	22,566.00	22,500.00
Validated Mission (\$)	105,429.00		70,789.00	103,799.00	35,071.00	18,657.00	27,626.00	19,000.00	30,000.00	22,637.00	16,200.00
Other Mission (\$)	11,120.00					13,638.00	10,400.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	11,050.00	
Per Member Contributions (\$)	1,027.62		920.19	1,246.95	1,115.37	1,014.45	1,089.65	1,064.33	1,198.70	1,044.72	979.69
Contrib. Per Worship Attendance (\$)	2,084.93		2,459.08	2,793.80	2,570.44	2,710.89	2,287.50	2,481.58	2,501.36	2,600.90	2,411.76

Note 1: Membership numbers and other statistics for congregations affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and one or more other denominations reflect only portions of the actual totals.

Note 2: Fields are blank when no data are reported.

Prepared by Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We, the Vision Team of First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield, of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Chicago Presbytery, Synod of Lincoln Trails, were selected by the Session in December of 2009 to plan and lead FPCD's mission study, helping the session and congregation to assess who we have been, who and where we are, and where we are going.

Through the guidance of Gil Rendle and Alice Mann's *Holy Conversations*, we began by brainstorming FPCD's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We formed a set of questions to guide our congregation through conversations: What is most important to me? What do I worry most about? If I could change one thing at FPCD, what would it be?

We received over 175 responses to these questions through a congregational meeting, small group meetings, and written replies. We drafted a document explaining what we heard from the congregation, as well as a preliminary vision statement, and we shared them with the congregation through four conversation sessions.

After careful review of the documents and reflection over what the congregation had to say, we finalized our vision for First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield in 2020. We hope that by reading our vision report and the accompanying documents, you understand the landscape of FPCD and where we see our church heading.

## FPCD Vision Team Members

Bill Milligan (Vision Team Chairperson)  
Kathy Knezevic (Vice-Chair)  
Mary Boote (Co-Recording Secretary)  
Amy Christian (Co-Recording Secretary)  
Ray Craig  
Barbara Enns  
David Griffin  
Gayle Meyers  
Rob Wolter  
Kent Organ (Staff)