

# VISION 2020

## To end loneliness in our neighborhoods

### MISSION

To be a sign, instrument, and foretaste of kingdom and covenant belonging among our parish neighbors

- Covenant belonging – you are a valuable part of our family
- Kingdom belonging – you have a vital role in our shared mission
- Parish – area around the church within 1/8-mile radius and 8 closest neighbors of personal homes

### STRATEGY

To achieve this goal, we will employ five key strategies:

- Biblical Engagement – the Bible will keep our focus on Jesus and send us on mission
- Expectant/ Listening Prayer – we will pray like we expect answers, and we will listen for God to show us what good news looks like for our neighbors
- ★ Gospel Feet and Hospitality– we are willing to go out to meet others and cross earthly barriers to cultivate belonging at all levels; we generously open our spaces to welcome others.
- Vibrant Worship—we will devote effort to worshiping God with beautiful music and arts, to draw people to our community and to our God
- Children and Youth – we will offer excellent children and youth programs to draw families into our church and help them experience and overcome barriers to belonging

### VALUES

These values are essential to our identity and will influence our style of mission and ministry:

- Intergenerational – we value every age and stage
- Confident – conservative theology, but not defensive or political
- Balanced – women and men at all levels of leadership, servant leadership, not pastor-centric
- Beautiful – Our building, music and arts, and culture of belonging reflect the lavish goodness of God and affirm the worth and dignity of all.

### BELIEFS

- The Bible is our final authority
- We support and affirm the Essential Tenets of ECO

## VISION 2020 - HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Much of Vision 2020 builds on things that we are already doing, so for many of us, participating in Vision 2020 will mean continuing to do what we've been doing with a greater sense of focus and clarity as to why we're doing it. In addition to this, the leadership of First Pres will be launching some new programs and initiatives that we can get involved in over the next six months. In the meantime, there are a number of things that you can do right away to get started with Vision 2020:

### TALK:

You can help saturate Vision 2020 throughout our congregation by talking about it with others and sharing your thoughts and insights. If someone you know from church missed one or all of the Vision 2020 rollout sessions, you can give them a summary or point them to the sermons or recap videos on the app or online. If you are in a small group or any other kind of group at First Pres, you can dedicate one of your meetings to talking about the vision and sharing your thoughts and questions.

### PRAY:

You can use the Vision 2020 Document on the back of this sheet as a guide to pray for Vision 2020. You can do prayer walks in your neighborhood and/or in the church neighborhood and focus your prayers on ending loneliness with a greater sense of belonging for our neighbors. We are producing a neighborhood prayer walk guide that you can use.

### READ:

There are articles coming out every week that explore the issue of loneliness from different angles and with different sections of our population. Read those articles and become an expert on the problem of loneliness. Also, there are a few books that we are recommending for you to learn about loneliness, shalom, and evangelism:

- ***The Art of Neighboring*** by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. This book offers some practical suggestions for how to build up stronger bonds of trust with your neighbors.
- ***I Once Was Lost*** by Don Everts. This book demonstrates why building trust is such an important first step in sharing the gospel.
- ***The Externally Focused Church*** by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson. This book provides lots of helpful suggestions for serving the community in the church neighborhood.
- ***The Lonely American*** by Jacqueline Olds and Richard Schwartz. This is not a Christian book but is a very helpful primer on the problem of loneliness and what can be done about it.

Pick-up one of these and read it alone, with a friend, or with a group.

### EXPERIMENT:

We encourage you individually, as a family, or with your small group to try an experiment to connect with your neighbors or our neighbors around the church. If it works (or if it doesn't) let your church family know so that we can learn from your experiment. Take pictures and send them to the church or post them on social media