September 21, 2017 ***Revisiting Vision***  Milepost 187

In June, the congregation affirmed three priorities over the next three years:

***A STRUCTURE*** *which facilitates responsiveness to the Holy Spirit’s direction, empowers all to use spiritual gifts, and makes decisions effectively/efficiently to increase missional potential.*

***GROWING*** *as individuals and as a community, in our walk with God, by the power of the Holy Spirit (through spiritual disciplines, small groups, spiritual gifts).*

***SHARING*** *God’s love, justice and peace beyond the congregation in part through increasing awareness of each other’s gifts and callings.*

**All three priorities involve the discernment of spiritual gifts!**

This milepost illustrates how the STRUCTURE priority contributes to greater congregational health.

Reducing the number of current ministries (nine) into five small oversight commissions, naturally increases collaboration and communication. Each commission is empowered to make decisions, enabling the Vision and Accountability Team to focus on congregational vision, and oversight of the Pastoral Team.

The Spiritual Gift Discernment Team (SGDT) has fewer positions to fill because each commission will call people to serve in the ministries for which they are responsible. SGDT’s primary task is to enable everyone to find greater clarity regarding their passion, spiritual gifts, and calling.

Because several new small groups have given careful attention to spiritual gift discernment, SGDT has helpful information (emerging out of small group discernment) on at least a dozen Shalom participants. This aids them in their immediate task of Identifying 15 commission members.

Next week: GROWING! -Gary Martin