2026-2027 University UMC Action Plan Update (11/1/2026)

UMC Vision Statement

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

University UMC Mission Statement

Feeding God's People: Body, Mind, and Spirit



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Strategy # 1: LOVE BOLDLY: Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life.		
Action & Goal	**Status**	**Update**
Action: Create a structured new member orientation and buddy system to support new attendees and foster belonging.	☐ Thinking X Initial Implementation ☐ Well into the Task ☐ Completed	We offered a four-session New Member Orientation this fall and welcomed a new member on October 18. The Mind team is developing a peer-support/ambassador approach to help newcomers build relationships and find their place in congregational life.
Action: Host intentional fellowship and social gatherings beyond worship to strengthen relationships and foster inclusion.	X Thinking ☐ Initial Implementation ☐ Well into the Task ☐ Completed	Fellowship gatherings in March and October brought people together for games and opportunities to strengthen relationships. The Spirit team is exploring a no-sew blanket project that would combine fellowship with hands-on service to the wider community.
Action: Form a Children's and Youth Ministry Reimagination Team to design and pilot a sustainable, relationship-centered ministry model.	☐ Thinking ☐ Initial Implementation X Well into the Task ☐ Completed	The reimagination team has completed training and is preparing to launch Messy Church in December, meeting monthly for intergenerational faith formation. Sunday childcare is now available, and a shared confirmation class is being planned with Plymouth Congregational Church.

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Strategy #2: **SERVE JOYFULLY:** With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy.		
Action & Goal	**Status**	**Update**
Action: Create a mission team to identify and implement a new outreach program (e.g., Brown Memorial, Ronald McDonald House, Mental Health).	☐ Thinking X Initial Implementation ☐ Well into the Task ☐ Completed	The Mission Committee meets regularly to identify new outreach partnerships. The committee continues exploring an after-school mentoring program for New American youth, provided $5,000 in support to Brown Memorial and assisted with its Trunk-or-Treat event, and is evaluating support for Filipino missionaries serving in Taiwan.
Action: Expand involvement with Interfaith Community Collective (ICC) through coordinated volunteer scheduling and clergy support.	☐ Thinking ☐ Initial Implementation X Well into the Task ☐ Completed	UUMC continues to provide space and substantial volunteer support for the Interfaith Community Collective's food and community ministries.
Action: Create a sustainable volunteer pipeline through training and burnout-prevention strategies.	X Thinking ☐ Initial Implementation ☐ Well into the Task ☐ Completed	The committee is exploring how the new-member and ambassador initiatives could invite more people into service. The pastor is planning a volunteer wellness and burnout-prevention conversation in the Spring.

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Strategy #3: **Lead Courageously:** Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation.		
Action & Goal	Status	Update
Action: Organize congregational participation in justice-related community events and advocacy efforts.	☐ Thinking ☐ Initial Implementation X Well into the Task ☐ Completed	Members have participated in community advocacy events, including Juneteenth, No Kings rallies, Pride celebrations, the Labor Rights March, and the Abolition Road Walk. The congregation is considering an MFSA covenant and exploring a justice-focused book study. Following a Creation Justice worship series, an Environmental Justice Team formed to explore next steps, including an energy audit and a fellowship gathering featuring a documentary.
Action: Create a mental health support initiative that includes education and volunteer training.	☐ Thinking ☐ Initial Implementation X Well into the Task ☐ Completed	A mental health task force has formed and begun identifying community resources. A September guest speaker addressed children's mental health, and the team is exploring additional education, including holiday mental health support and future training opportunities.