

# 2026 University UMC Action Plan

## 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

**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

### Champion

**Action:** Create a structured new member orientation and buddy system to support new attendees and foster belonging.

Mind

#### **Goals:**

- Launch quarterly visitor/new member classes.
- Assign a trained "buddy" to 100% of new (<3) visitors.
- Achieve 75% retention of new visitors after 6 months.

**Action:** Host intentional fellowship and social gatherings beyond worship to strengthen relationships and foster inclusion.

Spirit

#### **Goals:**

- Host 3 fellowship/social events annually.
- Establish benchmark participation.
- Survey participants annually for belonging feedback.

**Action:** Form a Children's and Youth Ministry Reimagination Team to design and pilot a sustainable, relationship-centered ministry model.

Mind

#### **Goal:**

- Form ministry design team by June 2026.
- Conduct listening sessions with at least 6 families and youth.
- Launch at least 1 new pilot model by Fall 2026.
- Engage 10 children/youth in regular participation by December 2026.

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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

### Champion

**Action:** Create a mission team to identify and implement a new outreach program (e.g., Brown Memorial, Ronald McDonald House, Mental Health).

Body

#### **Goal:**

- Host a mission visioning session and identify one new local and one new international partner/program.
- Launch service opportunity.
- Recruit five active volunteers (who do not crossover with ICC or Lydia's Attic)

**Action:** Expand involvement with Interfaith Community Collective (ICC) through coordinated volunteer scheduling and clergy support.

Body

#### **Goal:**

- Provide clergy support presence at least once per month.
- Report volunteer engagement quarterly.

**Action:** Create a sustainable volunteer pipeline through training and burnout-prevention strategies.

Body

#### **Goal:**

- Recruit fifteen new volunteers annually.
- Provide two volunteer appreciation/training events per year.
- Conduct an annual volunteer satisfaction check-in.
- Establish term limits for committees.

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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

### Champion

**Action:** Organize congregational participation in justice-related community events and advocacy efforts.

Body

**Goal:**

- Participate in at least 3 public advocacy events annually.
- Provide 2 educational forums related to justice issues.
- Track participation numbers annually.

**Action:** Discern future use of the education wing to meet community needs (i.e., unhoused outreach, daycare)

Trustees

**Goal:**

- Form discernment team by Spring 2026.
- Identify at least one external partner.
- Present finalized proposal to Trustees by December 2026.

**Action:** Create a mental health support initiative that includes education and volunteer training.

Spirit

**Goal:**

- Identify a champion/subcommittee chair.
- Develop a resource library (e.g., printed materials and referrals, free-counseling clinic partner)
- Host 1 Mental Health 101 Workshop
- Train 8-10 volunteers in basic mental health awareness.
- Evaluate participation and expand in 2027.