

1. What do you imagine is God's preferred future for Central Oregon?

develop a strong youth program
A more Godly community, and more churched. We need a more Christ centered community.
Many groups work together to support the people who are here and the people who will come. God wants all people to have basic needs met. God also wants us to be steward of this land.
Respect and care for the beautiful environment of Oregon
For revival of people in their hearts. More children in our church.
Meeting the needs of young families who are attending church
Caring for the needy
A livable wage; Peace in our community; No one homeless or hungry
CO would remain as a wild, beautiful place to visit, play and live
Crucible for bigger challenges
A place and room for everyone and that we can live in peace
Small town dealing with big city issues
Service
Pride in how we take care of vulnerable populations
Partner with other churches, differences aside (although we have differences we can work together and respect each other's ideas
That people reflection "God's presence in our lives and relationships."
****One group did not respond to first question , they voiced concerns which are listed in "concerns" section
unity
Individual Christians integrate into faith into our lives outside of church
More young people at church
Meet the needs of children--and families in our community
Young adult "group"
Peace and kindness
Provide nourishment and encouragement for all of us

Reflecting God's love, loving one another, living and following God's example in our everyday life
Ecumenical
Empathy and Compassion
Inclusive (everyone is welcome)
Love as the center point
Accepting
Understanding diversity
Environmental preservation
"Keep Bend smaller"?? Growth
Housing for those who want it..places for people to live
Shelter for everyone...children too
Cast a wide net--include everyone, respect personal faith journey
Go into the world and preach to every person-do all programs need to be a minister?
Pray for help
Community resources-make people feel at home
Openness be responsive and willingness to take action
More involvement
Outreach
Continue Back Door/Day Center
Adapt to modern, but keep old ideas (good traditions alive)
Environment of change to attract new people
Find common Ground
Maintain honesty/reality
Affordable housing in Bend
Welcoming

Socially and economically diverse
Environmentally sustainable
Be kind and respectful to others so that we can figure the future out as a community
Take care of all people in CO
Action needs to follow our words
More ecumenical work
Social justice program of many churches
Cross-cultural communication
Find common ground
Bring people into "his" fold
People helping people
Affordable housing
ecumenical
Reconciling-even if thoughts are different-agree to disagree
Inclusiveness, diversity
Prime place for God's' word to be spread
More young people involved in church
Concern for 11am service
Outreach
That all residents have access to fair and affordable housing and enough food to eat.

2. How does Bend Church participate in God's loving work in Central Oregon?

feed homeless, teach children,
Homeless outreach and for those in need. Providing a faith based center for people's lives
Thru outreach to those in need. Youth and the elderly.
We continue to support outreach to those in need. We join groups in the community with a like

mind so that we will not do this work alone. We find things to involve people in the congregation that reflect their interests. Working for diversity, preserving our land, air, and water; as well as helping those who need a hand up.
Backdoor; compassionate care; food shelves
Backdoor; and many other ways
Backdoor/Day Center
Backdoor; children's programs; open for community events (scouts, jazzercise, concerts, umcorps
Speaking on behalf of the church toward care and conservation of environment
The Holy Spirit
Continue with back door/day center
Outreach to kids on the street
Be an amazing resources for referrals
Grow youth program. We are missing a generation
Reach out to colleges
More hymns in second service
First purpose of church is not nostalgia...continue to find emphasize our purpose
Keep both types of services
Coffeehouse down the street for people to hang
Keep feeding people
Building the faith of our children.
"Get the youth to participate more in the lives of the elderly"
Back Door/Day Center
VBS
Kits for Kids
Laundry of love

Community room
Boy and Girl scouts
Reflective of what we have done and hope to do in the future--BYC, Back Door
Continue growing and expanding work with poor
Worship God, not just doing things
Help for the elderly
Hospitality
Strong welcoming community
Pastor greets and also makes contact with new people.
Continue dinner groups.
Groups, groups, groups-spaces for people to "find their way."
Community outreach as a responsibility-have a presence in community events
Wednesday morning/backdoor/day center
Collaborate with other churches, trainings etc
Training so our congregation and neighbors feel more comfortable with opening our doors to all
Remain open-our location is where the need is. Expand with other churches
When we see needs we need to respond
HS is in this church, we ought to listen to it's movement for guidance. Be receptive to God's will
Maintain backdoor
Expanded and continued community assistance, increase work in the community, continue to meet everyone's needs.
Focus on our own personal community
Setting a good example
Contribute financially to worthy causes
Activism vs passivity

Take a stand for What's right but try to limit political involvement
Provide direct services but find help to be able to do it safely and sustainably
Be the hands and feet of Jesus
Prepare for the future...unmet needs we may not be aware of at this time
Back door cafe needs more vols
Making out community outreach more robust
Value everyone
BDC, Daycenter
Participation in other faith groups
BYC-reaching out to youth
Couples counseling
Storydwelling
Family Kitchen
By reaching out to the community to homeless, at risk, and those living on the fringes of society

3. How Will our congregation help this happen?

volunteer
More participation from the congregation for outreach programs. More focus on our programs.
Keep going in the direction we are. Supporting Storydwelling to see in reach even more.
Our congregation needs to be challenged to think deeply about our faith and to deepen our relationship to God. As we deepen our relationships to each other and our faith we will be equipped to go out into the world and do God's loving compassionate work.
Active participation in worthy environmental causes to protect the true natural beauty of where we call home, Central Oregon and our planet
By getting out into the community in a loving way.
Follow up after bible school, encourage children to bring a friend
Through volunteering
Continue to do what we are already doing.

To continue to listen to God and ask for guidance. God's will will lead us to the do God's work.
Be ecumenical
Sunday school growth
Youth Group Growth
Give congregation tips on hospitality
Create a real place, a real system for spiritual growth and a place to grow in faith
Expand support systems for people with kids
People coming to services need to understand that they are needed in our ministries. Education of different ministries on Sundays
Recognize the diversity already there.
"Visibility of youth pastors in the community"
Intergenerational Gathering
Have youth present what they are doing in the faith community to garner support
Volunteers
5th Sunday Breakfast
Putting in to action the message to continue following the path no cutting back
Groups to support each other (spiritual, moral)
Spiritual development
In bend there are so many new people looking for connection...how does Bend Church reach out to these communities?
Find out what people are missing from church
Not being judgemental to anyone but keep the focus.
Maintain the facility to keep these programs
Active participation by members of the congregation
Transportation for elderly so they can come to church or participate
Stay united as a congregation-combined service?

volunteer
No judgement
We are welcoming...hope to continue in this way
Community Outreach
Interfaith bridges
Back Door
Networking in church and community
Set example of service
Communicate to local media what we offer
Strong leadership
Identify issues in Bend and find ways to address
Older members (??)
Motivated Pastor
Increase involvement
Mentoring
Choice of service opportunities.
Continue to allow people to use facility
Continue to be open and welcome to newcomers build relationships in community
Let rulemakers hear our voice and our opinion (land building rules)
Continue visible presence in community
Bend church can be a place for rough conversations
Constant challenge of accepting and welcoming everyone
Think about alternative ways of making other feel welcome
Offering spiritual growth classes to defeat fear of stereotypes/political differences
Integrate ministries (so people know what is going on)
5th sunday introduce different ministries.

Encourage more participation from congregation
When several joined it was explicitly stated that participation was expected as part of membership
Acknowledge people contribute in different ways
Physical, tangible help (warm blankets, food etc)
Don't ambush new people, empower them
Have a table with opportunities to serve
People do what they are good at
Have a mission fair--communicate the ministries of this church often
Have a table at worship featuring one ministry/mission
"Baby steps"
To get people to help out: Invite, empower, support
Proactive in organizations in Bend
Christian counseling (??)
Bend church spearhead an ecumenical program of ministers (already in place)
Break down barriers between mainline and funda churches
Stay on top of electronic advances/social media
By engaging all members to participate however they can, to maintain our historic building, to grow our congregation working toward the same goals.

Concerns stated from **one group only. **I think that these are okay to note...don't know if/how we want to incorporate them into a report:

- "Done lots already for needy, homeless"

- "Missing the older generation."

- We need to strengthen the youth greatly

- Need daytime activities for seniors who don't drive after dark.

- How can we keep a pastor longer?

- Need to appeal to a younger group to keep young families active

- we need support groups

- You need to be a greeter

- Children's service numbers seem to be down

- "Homeless people scare some folks off and they aren't always comfortable when they hang around-concerned for safety and no drugs!"
- "New pastors with young family would be good and maybe bring their school friends."
- "Pastor strong message giver with bible study center."

**Note made that many questions were raised in one group re Storydwelling. Specifics were not mentioned.

To: Church Council, Bend Church
26, 2018
Subj: Consultation Process
From: Don and Darcey Pederson

September

We have been members of Bend Church for 38 years and in that time we have seen many good pastors come and go. We have also seen the church become more a complex organization to manage. Although we see value in trying to imagine God's preferred future for Central Oregon, and we assume that may be important information to have in selecting a new pastor, we believe it is more important to emphasize leadership skills. Without strong leadership skills in the pastor there is little hope of accomplishing any vision.

These skills are particularly needed at Bend Church because:

1. We are a large congregation that is very diverse. Politically members range from very conservative to very liberal. Theologically they range from very traditional to Progressive Christianity. They are all good people and we enjoy the diversity of opinions but it takes a lot of skill on the part of the pastor to keep everyone focused and satisfied.
2. The pastor will have a large staff to manage, and the church is involved in a number of partnerships with different churches.
3. Our church has a one-board form of organizational structure, which puts a lot more responsibility on the pastor who functions much like a chief executive.
4. Finally, we are a downtown church that serves a large homeless population. Although there are countless success stories there are also never ending problems that consume a lot of the pastor's time and energy. A backlash also exists within the congregation from those that don't support this effort. Some people see them as freeloaders, some see them as dirty, some are afraid of them, and others have other

issues. It takes a very experienced manager to keep peace within the congregation and continue to serve the needs of this population.

In summary, we believe the church has accomplished a great deal in the last few years and would like to expand those programs to help the people in the community outside the congregation. However, for that to happen the church will need a pastor with the skill set to manage a large and complex organization that is trying hard to meet the needs of an increasing homeless population while still meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation. A vision is important but a pastor who can lead us to that vision is, to us, more important.

END

"I participated in Sunday's church service small group discussions regarding these questions. Although there's value in these questions, I don't see the connection between the questions and how the output translates to provide the congregation's collective thoughts on the pastor selection. Also, all three questions were outreach focused. Although this is a large focus for our church, what about what we image for the needs of church members internally? How can we image to meet the needs of those hurting or striving to grow in Christ within our church? Please don't forget about us and our individual needs as well. The church's vision statement includes FAITH and FELLOWSHIP, not just Service. One last thought - sometimes it's easier to visualize what you DO NOT want the church to participate in, versus articulating what you do. I know that I DO NOT WANT THE CHURCH TO GET INTO POLITICAL "ACTIVISM", which it seems to be doing. The world is so divisive and polarized. I don't want to hear that at church. If we are heading more toward the Storydwelling activist type pastor, then Bend Church a NOT a "fit" for us anymore, which is very sad for all of us"

"The new Pastor ought to be a good speaker. Able to understand in a positive way what God's will is."

"Sense of humor important for a pastor."

Question: How will we interface with new church (storydwelling) in the future?

Pastoral Change Concerns:

- Good system of changing pastors
- Not "extreme" either way, pastor in the center
- How do we reach out to others to join us at church?
- How do we reach out to youth?

Anything to do better at or get rid of :

- Folks to be able to be at church, some way to make this happen
- short bus to transport people to church
- Program to reach out to college-young adult aged people
- Sunday school smaller numbers
- Affiliated with "visit Bend" church list...more news spots
- Mission in park or on Mt or where people are on a Sunday morning

-church can be wherever the people are

Thoughts for the future:

What would make this this place to be on a Sunday?

-How do we energize folks to be involved?

-Ecumenical time not to argue but to be together

-How to feel proud to be at Bend Church?

-The bigger something is, the harder it is to connect.

