



Central United Methodist Church

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January 14, 2008

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Dear Central Friends-in-Christ,

Driving downtown for a lunch meeting with a church member, I saw a banner on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield building that read, "PROUD MOMENT, STRONG FUTURE." I was struck by this simple message that celebrated a current experience and anticipated a bold future. This sums up the season that we are in as a church family, as we move toward the adoption of a *Ministry Plan* that outlines our plan for ministries, facilities, and resources needed for a vital, faithful, and outreaching ministry for Christ in our neighborhood, region, and world. This time marks a moment when we are guided by the Holy Spirit to stretch in faith to ensure a strong future for the witness of Central United Methodist Church!

On Sunday, February 10, 2008, there will be an All-Church Conference held at noon, following a lunch together in Kenwood Hall. The Administrative Councils of 2007 and 2008 will recommend the adoption of the enclosed Ministry Plan as our church's strategic plan for growth, outreach, and ministry. In addition, the necessary committees for developing and implementing the Ministry Plan will be nominated and elected. At the All-Church Conference, all professing members of Central UMC will have a secret ballot vote on the business of the conference, which will be convened by our District Superintendent, Reverend Yolanda Villa.

As you read and pray over this bold Ministry Plan, fashioned from a process of planning, discernment, and gatherings throughout the congregation for the past two years, you will see our common values, our mission, and the ways we will stretch to accomplish our mission through a vision of radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity. The entirety of this plan will be essential to our achieving the fruits of making disciples of Jesus Christ and growing His kingdom. This Ministry Plan, therefore, will be presented as a whole plan, all of its parts essential to "bear fruit" for the Kingdom of God.

Following this All-Church Conference and the work of committees that will plan for the ministry development, architecture, and financial development, **a second All-Church Conference will be held in 2008 to affirm building and funding plan to fulfill the Ministry Plan.** It is the commitment of our pastors and staff, Administrative Council, and church leaders to remain transparent and healthy in our conversations, discernment, and planning as a congregation.

We're doing this work together as the body of Christ called to be *Central to our City* as we building on a history of faithfulness and realize a future with hope.

Serving Christ with you,

Rev. Amy Gearhart Sage, Senior Pastor

Central United Methodist Church celebrates Christ's unconditional love
that changes lives everyday, as together we:
Reach up to God, Reach within ourselves, and Reach out to the world.