

## WILDWOOD VISION SCRIPT

July 26, 2020

Transformation is always at work in the church of Jesus Christ. As a church, we must move with the Spirit of change and sanctification. In order to move with God's Spirit and grow God's Kingdom, we are in discernment as to where God's Spirit is moving us into the future. We have faith that God's grace will empower this church to fulfill this God-given vision by the year 2025.

*We have the following IMPACT for the Kingdom of God:*

1. **Everyone who comes to Wildwood experiences the unconditional love and compassion of Jesus Christ, recognizes they belong and is empowered to serve others.** People come to church for many reasons: because they love God and they seek to experience and share that love in community; to find help and healing; seeking what they do not know; to experience a sense of belonging and contributing to something greater than themselves. As the church and through the guidance of God's Holy Spirit we endeavor to meet the needs of every person as we share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by putting faith into action. It is the work of the church to be love, extend grace, and guide God's people so that all will love God and love others as themselves (Matthew 23.37-38).
2. **Wildwood has a culture of mission that leads to service, nurtures relationships, and shares the love of Christ.** Jesus set the example for us as He washed the disciples' feet. He said, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (John 13.14-17). Jesus developed nurturing relationships with His disciples and He showed them that humble service is what we are all called to do. It is a characteristic of Wildwood's DNA to develop those nurturing relationships through our service to one another and those in our community.
3. **Wildwood is financially healthy and thriving.** Financial stability is necessary to provide for the needs of the community, congregation and ministry of Wildwood. As Wildwood grows, the financial needs grow as well. We preach and teach about generosity and tithing. We provide a biblical basis for giving. Wildwood UMC is a good steward of the financial resources given and will keep the congregation informed as to the financial status and needs of the church.

4. **We have increased average worship attendance from 400 (in 2019) to 650.** We were created to worship—not only to give all praise, honor and glory to God, but to live our lives as worship in gratitude to God. Average worship attendance is the best measure of the health and vitality of a church. This number represents those engaged in worship but also an increase in those committing lives to Jesus Christ, being baptized into the faith and growing in relationship with Christ and others. As the community surrounding Wildwood grows, so should our average worship attendance.
5. **Wildwood has increased our digital presence and online engagement.** We believe that our responsibility for preaching and teaching does not stop at the doors of the church. In a more digitally driven culture, maintaining our presence through various digital formats is crucial for the church to remain relevant as we adapt to the needs of our community and the ever changing context of ministry.
6. **We have increased participation among 19-30 year olds through targeted offerings of classes, workshops, covenant groups that meet their particular life skill needs, in formats that are easily accessible to them.** Demographic studies show that in 2024, 38 will be the average age of those in the community surrounding Wildwood. We believe the demographics of our church should match the demographics of our community.

*In order for us to realize the previous impact statements, the following fruit is cultivated:*

7. **Wildwood makes Jesus known throughout our community to expand the Kingdom of God.** Wildwood is known as the community church because our people are the church in the community. We do this by being a neighbor to those in need as well as identifying opportunities for outreach for the church. Once those opportunities are identified, we determine how the whole church may respond to those needs.
8. **Wildwood is a church devoted to worship, teaching, studying, learning, fellowship, prayer, and serving others.** We are a church that does life together as we live out the gospel (Acts 2.42-47) and Christ's command to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22.35-37).
9. **Wildwood provides a strong foundation for spiritual growth for all persons.** Growing more Christ-like is an ongoing process that requires intentionality on the part of the seeker or believer and the church. The church provides a discipleship pathway that meets the formation needs of seekers and believers, in their desire to deepen their relationship with God.

10. **Wildwood has irresistible children's and student ministries that fosters love of God and one another through mentoring and mirroring unconditional love.** "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19.14). We provide fun and creative ministries that teach who Jesus is and how Jesus loves. We provide opportunities for children and students to serve others as they themselves are served. We provide mentors to journey with the students as they navigate their middle and high school years.

*In order for the previously mentioned fruit to be cultivated, intentional evangelism is accomplished:*

11. **Every person that walks through the doors of Wildwood is welcomed and clearly understand next steps.** Assimilation of all into the life of the church is the work of the whole church so that no individual feels left behind or lost. Processes are in place to ensure contact is made and follow up is ongoing.

12. **Wildwood is a place where we are Christ's ambassadors taught and empowered to be invitational as a way of life.** We have an effective marketing and communication plan that empowers us for the work of evangelism. It is the calling of every Christian not only to share Jesus with others, but to offer an invitation into the life of the church.

*In order for Wildwood to continually grow the Kingdom of God in Magnolia and the surrounding areas, we have appropriate, effective and aligned teams:*

13. **Wildwood has the appropriate number of pastors and staff commensurate with membership.** As Wildwood grows, the Pastor Parish Relations Committee evaluates our needs for adding to staff (both pastoral and lay) so that we can effectively lead our congregation and respond to the needs of both the congregation and the community.
14. **Wildwood is a place where the congregation is engaged, equipped and encouraged to lead in collaboration with the pastors and staff.** Wildwood's pastors, staff, committees, and congregation are aligned in the work of making disciples. This crucial alignment helps to continually move toward the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28.16-20).