



▶ OUR OUTREACH



▶ OUR WORSHIP



▶ OUR CARE OF MEMBERS

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Epiphany *vision*

EPIPHANY'S PURPOSE IS TO LOVE JESUS BY SERVING OTHERS.

A Message from Pastor Pete

CARE OF MEMBERS RATIONALE

Care of Members' purpose is to love Jesus by supporting and nurturing the disciples at Epiphany as they grow in faith

Managing the polarities between care of members and outreach is essential to building and maintaining a healthy congregation. If a congregation overemphasizes care of members, it becomes self-centered and irrelevant to its neighbors. If a congregation overemphasizes outreach, it burns its members out. Therefore, leaders of a congregation need to define the right balance between its care of members and outreach.

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God's Vision for Epiphany

Care of Members Rationale *Continued*

Lyle Schaller, the authority on church administration in the latter half of the 20th century, wrote that the best balance of resources between care of members and outreach was between 65% and 75% of resources being allocated to the care of members and between 25% and 35% being allocated to outreach. For this discussion, care of members includes worship, ministries programs in education, fellowship groups, and administration.

Currently, Epiphany has 47 ministry programs and fellowship groups to care for its members. (This number does not include worship services.) These ministries range from Sunday School classes for all ages, to support groups, fellowship groups, and ministries to meet specific needs of members. It is an impressive list.

Although the vision for 2021 does not specifically mention the 47 programs for the care of members by name, it builds upon these ministries. The vision emphasizes a culture of hospitality, welcoming, and providing opportunities to gather with friends and build relationships.

Creating friendships is extremely important for worship attendance and participation in ministries to members and non-members. John Savage, author of *The Bored and Apathetic Church Member*, notes that when three of the five closest friends of a member attend his or her church, that members will worship every week. With this insight in mind, the vision calls for light breakfast between worship services and snacks available during the week to encourage relationship-building.

The Epiphany vision is well aware that each generation has its own preferred communication medium; therefore, it talks about an emphasis on communication media in presenting the story of Epiphany's ministries. The vision recognizes that those born before 1946 are very receptive to the written word and those born after 1981 prefer social networking. Therefore, in the caring of members, all communication media will be used to tell the story of Epiphany's ministries.

Youth receive a lot of attention in Epiphany's vision. There are two reasons for this. First, the Christian faith is taught from one generation to another. It has been said that the elimination of the Christian faith is one generation away. If we, as God's people, do not teach the Christian faith and provide for Christian nurture, no one will. Epiphany will continue to teach the faith to its young members. Second, families with children, along with senior citizens, are the most faithful church attendees. In a practical sense, Epiphany's future growth will be influenced by its ministries to families with children living at home.



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