

MISSION SELF STUDY REPORT



Parkview Presbyterian Church

Reynoldsburg, Ohio

April 2012

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INFORMATION ABOUT THIS REPORT

Parkview Presbyterian Church of Reynoldsburg, Ohio is progressing on a new journey of faith, mission and ministry as it seeks God's will in partnering with a new and dynamic called pastor to travel that journey with us.

The process to get to where we are today has been a long and sometimes frustrating process. After a few months of praying and seeking God's timing, an energetic group of six members was joined and approved by Session. Our interim pastor began in mid-February of 2011, and we began the study process in September, 2011. The Mission Study Team (MST) was commissioned during worship on September 4.

One of the first things we did was to explore what discerning God's will was all about, and we were assigned to read – three chapters for each meeting until finished – the insightful book, *Who Stole My Church* by Glenn McDonald. This book explores the challenges facing the “church” in the 21st Century in an easy to read and understand format. Early on, we also developed an interim ministry prayer for the church to use during this process.

Transitional Ministry Church Prayer

Dear Lord, we know that you are our guide and instructor. We give thanks that you have led all of us to this church. So, please help us to discern what you want us to do to make your church more alive and flourishing. We want our church to be a place where Jesus would be proud to be present and never leave. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Team also prepared the following prayers for the congregation to use during this interim period as well as any other time.

Dear Father in heaven, draw us near to you Lord. Give us guidance and courage to extend our love to witness to others so that we may share with others your kingdom. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, open our eyes and show our church how to share with our community. Please help us to be caring; to be your hands in the world; to show love to all. Help us to grow in your church. Help us to be fearless in following You. Amen.

The Team also prepared and posted on the walls in the Narthex the steps in the total process of calling a new pastor with an arrow marking where the church is in the process.

After reviewing and evaluating many articles, Biblical models, and researchers' concepts of what the 21st Century/Missional/Transitional church might look like, the team focused on how to best get input from the whole congregation so that their voices were heard and weighed in the discernment process of where the church had been; where it is today; and where God was calling us to be in the future. The Team settled on a process of what we called "Small Group" gatherings. A series of three 1.5 hour meetings were held for members and non-members who signed up, one on a Sunday afternoon; one on a Wednesday evening; and one on a Saturday morning. The Team also put the questions out in the Narthex for people to pick up and provide their input in writing if they could not attend one of the sessions. Further, the Team emailed or snail-mailed the questions to everyone else to allow and encourage further input.

The team developed six questions for the "Small Group" participants to respond to. The information was collected on flip-chart sheets, correlated, and then tabulated as best possible. Participants were also encouraged to add any additional information on a questions sheet and return it to the Team.

The six questions that people were asked to respond to were:

1. What are the strengths of our church?
2. What's happening here at Parkview that has you excited about coming to church?
3. What are the challenges (weaknesses, threats) facing our church?
4. If the church were to focus on one purpose, what would that be?
5. What could our church be doing to reach un-churched people?
6. What characteristics do you think we should be looking for in a new pastor?

Roughly 40 members attended the "Small Group" gatherings, and several others provided written answers as they were unable to personally attend. From these gatherings, the MST was able to gain some general insight into the direction of the church in the future.

1. It was noted that the smaller size of the membership, and the resulting close interpersonal relationships that exist among members, along with the church's "park view" location, are two of the greatest strengths. Members also felt that the music program; dedication of the members; and mission participation in projects like Joseph's Coat, Helping Hands and others are real strengths of this community of faith.
2. Perhaps the greatest challenge/concern people are feeling is the aging of the church and its members, along with a changing community in terms of ethnicity and race.

Following these were issues of declining resources/finances; competition with the secular society in terms of Sunday mornings; and that even though the location is seen as a strength, it may also be a challenge as the church blends in with the park in such a way that it may not stand out.

3. To grow the church by bringing people to Christ and attracting new members was seen as perhaps the most significant purpose of the church, along with providing meaningful opportunities for people to grow in their faith – to become stronger and more committed disciples. Close behind these are: the need to be in mission, provide solid Christian Educational programs, and consider joining in functions with other churches in the area.
4. How to reach the un-churched is always a challenge, and one that no one has a firm answer to, but members felt a need to reach out to those who have left the church for one reason or another – why have they left? Also, there is a reasonable sense that if the church can find a way to attract children, parents may follow. Other suggestions included having worship services at times other than 10:30 on a Sunday morning; pooling resources with other churches; being more mission orientated locally; and opening the church to use by more groups. Also discussed was the possibility of calling a pastor who might better relate to a more ethnically/racially diverse and younger population.
5. The next called pastor should have good people skills; be able to commit for the longer haul – thus not be near retirement age; actively be a part of the community; not just administer the church; be a family person; be active in pastoral care of members; have a high energy level; and have a proven track record of growing the church.

The Team worked to keep the membership up to date on what it was doing through the “Small Group” gatherings, reports to Session, Minutes for Mission, articles in the bulletins and the monthly newsletter, and announcements and references to the team’s work in sermons. The on-going publication of the interim ministry prayer was also a constant reminder of the process the Team was going through.

Mission Study Team Members:	Rev. Stephen V. Moulton, Interim Pastor
Barbara Edwards	Cathy Hill
Donna Abbott	Nancy Evans-Freed
Chris Hoffman	Mary Jane Underwood

Our Mission: We are a community of faith seeking God’s guidance to be His hands, feet and voice in a changing world.

Our Vision: We feel God is leading us to be a vital, renewed and loving congregation, practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

This vision is adapted from *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Bishop Robert Schnase. The Mission Study Team has been prayerfully considering what God is calling this congregation to be and do in a changing community. Are we called to care for our own members? To work to fill our pews with new believers? To be fearless in our willingness to follow Jesus into service? While each of these seemed worthy, we felt they did not capture the Team’s sense of urgency that we as a congregation must embrace the reality of change in our world if we are to be a faith community that calls people today and tomorrow to a life changing relationship with God.

We were drawn to Gil Rendle’s description, in his book *Journey in the Wilderness*, of an adaptive approach to finding ways to follow Jesus Christ. Rendle proposes an approach that challenges us to seek new ways to worship, support spiritual growth, and respond to our faith in service, while remaining true to Christ’s teachings – ways that “require thoughtfulness, exploration and learning” – so that we can more effectively *be God’s hands, feet and voice* to reach the un-churched and meet our communities’ needs. We were especially drawn to the energy and commitment expressed by the adjectives used by Schnase to describe congregational practice: radical, passionate, intentional, risk-taking and extravagant. We believe this is the kind of faith community God is giving us the opportunity to build here in Reynoldsburg!

Key Theological Images:

Seeking the Land of Promise (Exodus) – Much like the Hebrews who followed Moses out of Egypt to seek the Land of Promise, the Parkview congregation finds itself in a time of transition. The Hebrews journeyed through the Wilderness, where they were blessed by God. They experienced his generosity, received his commandments, and learned how to move from being slaves in Egypt to recommitting to a life in covenant with God. Parkview has begun the journey out of our own Egypt of “doing church” as it has always been done. We are ready for change, but uncertain of how to move forward. Our wilderness includes an aging membership, an increasingly diverse community where a Presbyterian

tradition/identity may not “speak” to the un-churched, and new generations of adults and children who have new ways of communicating, connecting with God and expressing their faith. We are seeking a teaching elder who will help fulfill God’s plan, our Land of Promise, by helping us adapt to meet the people’s needs in service, music, worship and spiritual development, while strengthening our commitment to our core values and mission.

Building Christ’s Church (The Acts of the Apostles) – When we think of achieving our vision of being a vital, renewed and loving congregation in this changing world, we believe we can learn from Peter and Paul as they helped to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Peter, on whose confession Jesus built his church, was given a vision from God that helped the first Christians in Jerusalem accept that people did not have to follow the Jewish traditions to be faithful to Christ’s teachings. Paul went further, reaching beyond the boundaries of his Roman tradition, helping to build the church in many communities and countries with different cultures and traditions. We can follow the example of Peter and Paul and be open to new approaches to being God’s hands, feet and voice in a changing world.

A SHORT HISTORY OF PARKVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It has been 175 years since the church we know as Parkview Presbyterian was founded. Officially organized by a committee of the Columbus Presbytery on August 6, 1836, its ten member congregation met first in local homes. In 1840 a frame house, the Presbyterian Church of Reynoldsburg was constructed on a 45 x 90 foot lot at the N.W. corner of Broad Alley and Lancaster Avenue, and so its ministry began. That first church caught fire in 1861, but with the help of members and town people, it was rebuilt within the year. Through its first 40 years, this early church struggled, as do we, with matters of raising funds, nurturing children in its “Sabbath School”, organizing for the conduct of worship, celebrating the Christian story, and caring for those in need. But it survived, even grew in numbers in the developing frontier of this state and nation.

From the time that James Crawford built a single cabin in 1805 on land that would become Reynoldsburg, the community grew steadily along the east/west National Trail. In 1955, its population was 750 persons. In 1960 that number exploded to 7,793 and by 1996 the population of Reynoldsburg was 27,000. The church grew with the community, marking successes like the purchase of a manse for its pastors in 1924, as well as a new furnace for the church and construction of a framed entrance to the building.

From 1944-1950, in deference to financial concerns rather than a desire for a union of churches, our church merged with the Jackson Avenue Presbyterian Church. Led by a single pastor, worship was housed in the Jackson Avenue building, while our church was used as a fellowship hall and meeting facility. A fire destroyed the Jackson Avenue Church in 1946, so all activities moved to our church on Lancaster Avenue. In 1950, the Jackson Avenue congregation chose to withdraw from this confederation and began a rebuilding program on their site. Our church undertook remodeling efforts of its own, adding north and south wings to its building and refurbishing the pulpit and chancel furniture that are still in use in our sanctuary today.

In the mid-1950's, it was the beginning of explosive growth in our town and the impending merger of two major Presbyterian denominations that led the congregation to purchase ten acres of land on East Livingston Avenue where our building now stands. A major fundraising campaign was conducted to complete payment on the land and to prepare for a new building. In 1963, the name "Parkview" became the name chosen by the congregation for our church. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 6, 1966 with construction beginning early in 1967. That same year, the Lancaster Avenue building was sold to the Knights of Columbus for use as their lodge hall. Parkview's new church was dedicated in 1967, and the church bell that had rung through its history found a new home and a revived mission to invite our community to worship.

During the 1980's, Parkview's membership grew and its physical plant expanded. The sanctuary was expanded, a new fellowship hall and kitchen were constructed, and classrooms and lobby space were rearranged to bring space to a more satisfactory and useful configuration. Much of this work was undertaken by church members, even as the financing was undertaken by both cash contributions and interest-free loans from members, later repaid through set-asides within annual operating budgets. In 1991, the Session approved a multi-year decoration and rehabilitation program of more than one hundred individual projects, including air conditioning of the sanctuary and fellowship halls. In 1993, a new organ in the sanctuary was dedicated to the glory of God and the worship of our congregation.

In 1999, a self-assessment study was organized by the Session with congregational support to guide us through the next decade in building a stronger, more vital church. The following goals and outcomes are partially noted here:

*Increase greater congregational participation in all aspects of ministry. As a result, a new Board of Deacons was formed that put into action the belief that a strong congregation grows from lay persons rising to responsibility and service as strong leaders who are personally involved in caring for the flock.

*Strengthen mission and outreach to local and larger communities. The outcome was the creation and strengthening of such programs as Vacation Bible School, Christian-based child care in a one-day-a-week “Parents’ Day Out”, spaghetti dinners and sponsorship of Scouting.

We extend our mission outward in community action with Helping Hands, Joseph’s Coat, the CROP Walk, Christmas Shoebox Ministry and others.

*Improve efforts at encouraging, welcoming and incorporating new members. As follow-up, a Task Force for Membership Ministry was created and met with mixed success. However, as a result, a paid Christian Education Director position was created in commitment to child and adult learning for our membership and visitors alike. A church website has been established. Postcards of welcome are mailed to new community members.

*Care for enhancing the church property and facility. When a local church disbanded and closed its doors in 1998, 14 of its members joined Parkview. Their generous financial gift helped fund immediate facility improvements. In 2007, a significant building project expanded the narthex, created a Sunday school wing, and updated restrooms, all made possible by a building fund campaign that provided support for this effort.

*Develop a stronger financial base for long term growth. The Session considered a twelve month approach to stewardship without follow-up action. The congregation gives generously of its time and talent. It has established an endowment fund and opportunities for special giving. In our challenging economic climate, however, financial stewardship is an ongoing concern of this church.

CHURCH BUILDING INVENTORY

The church building is a one-story structure that sits on 10 acres of land on the south side of Livingston Avenue in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. The current structure includes:

Sanctuary: Contained within the original 1967 construction, the sanctuary contains 14 rows of pews with a center aisle and two side aisles. The sanctuary can comfortably accommodate 250 people. The Chancel area is raised and contains four half pews for the choir, the lectern, pulpit, and communion table, a piano, an organ and the Cross as a point of central focus. The chancel area includes a large screen that retracts into the ceiling and has a power-point projector mounted from the ceiling. The sanctuary has an AV system including stationary and lapel microphones.

Narthex: The expanded narthex is light-filled from a wall of windows, and contains casual seating, two bookcases which house a lending library, as well as areas for display tables, a bulletin board, and a wall mounted “memorial tree” where friends and members can honor

loved ones or special events in their lives. The area is used for gathering before and after church and also by community groups as a meeting space.

Offices: The pastor's office is approximately 18'x10' and includes a desk, two bookcases, and a computer table. The secretary and Christian education director share an office, which is divided by a 2/3 high wall; the secretary's space has windows that overlook the narthex and entrance doors and includes a desk, mail boxes, storage cabinet and copier. The Christian education director's space has a desk, bookcases, and a file cabinet and has a separate door. Each desk has a computer and printer, with Internet access via wireless connection.

Fellowship Hall and Kitchen: The Fellowship Hall is approximately 25'x40' and includes 10 round tables which each seat four people and three large, wheeled folding tables which can seat 16-18 each. The Hall also contains a piano and casual seating and has a storage alcove for extra chairs. The Hall connects with the kitchen through a large pass-through serving counter with doors on either end. The kitchen contains two gas stoves, two double sinks, a commercial refrigerator, a small freezer, dishwasher, microwave and significant cabinets and work counters, including a large island. There is a utility closet and a lockable storage closet.

Classrooms: The education wing contains 6 classrooms, each approximately 18'x20'. The classrooms each contain built-in storage cabinets along one wall. One classroom is dedicated as a nursery, another as a preschool room, and one for youth. One room has been used as a computer lab and is also used for Sunday morning Christian education classes and adult evening Bible Study classes.

Music Room: The adult choir, the adult bell choir and the children's chimes choir share a music practice room, which contains tables, chairs, a baby grand piano and two storage closets.

Storage: The facility includes one room dedicated to storage which contains music and office file cabinets, chancel hangings, cleaning supplies and equipment. In addition, the boiler room is used for storage of various tools and supplies.

Restrooms: The main building includes remodeled, accessible restrooms for men and women. In addition, the education wing has two unisex restrooms available to children and to families.

Parking: The church property has an on-site parking lot that can accommodate 96 cars.

CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT 2011

Friday, April 8, 2012

PIN Number 6442

Presbytery Number 040628

Church	Church Parkview Presbyterian Church
Address	6969 Livingston Ave
City/State	Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3015
Phone	614-866-5451
Email	pastor@parkviewpresbyterian.org
Web Site	www.parkviewpresbyterian.org
Fax	None

Membership

Prior Active Members

203

Gains

17 & Under

4

18 & Over

4

Certified

Other

Total Gains

8

Losses

Certified

2

Deaths

8

Other

3

Total Losses

13

Total Active Members

192

Baptized

Total Adherents

192

Female Members

118

Average Attendance

125

Affiliate Members

Baptisms

Child Baptisms

2

Adult Baptisms

Officers

Male Session

8

Female Session

4

Male Deacons

Female Deacons

6

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under

27

26 -45

52

Male

12

21

Female

15

31

46 – 55	31	11	20
56 – 65	44	18	26
Over 65	44	15	29
Total Distribution	198	77	121

People with Disabilities

Hearing	11
Sight	2
Mobility	14
Other	16

Christian Education

Birth 3	3	Grade 7	2
Age 4	5	Grade 8	2
Kindergarten	3	Grade 9	1
Grade 1	2	Grade 10	3
Grade 2	2	Grade 11	0
Grade 3	2	Grade 12	0
Grade 4	1	Young Adults	5
Grade 5	1	Over 25	30
Grade 6	1	Teachers/Officers	8
Total	71		

Racial Ethnic	Membership	Elders	Deacons	Male	Female
Asian	6			4	2
Black					
African American	3		1	1	2
African	3			1	2
Middle Eastern					
Hispanic					
Native American					
White	180	12		68	112
Other					
Totals	192	12	1	74	118

Potential Giving Units	45
Budgeted Income	216,038
Budgeted Expense	216,038

Receipts

Regular Contributions	182,378	Bequests	9,040
Other Income	17,883		
Investment Income	1,196		

Expenditures

Local Program	189,941	Per Capital Apprt	6,869
Local Mission*		Validated Mission	4,548

*See: Mission Program discussion and also that the church has Special Offering (3) passthroughs

MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH

Parkview Presbyterian Church has an array of different ministries enabling all gifts and talents to be utilized throughout the church and the community. We install officers in two governing bodies to help lead our efforts of ministry. One of the governing bodies is Session, consisting of 12 members, and the other is the Board of Deacons, consisting of 6 members who are chosen through our nominating committee. The Session directs and chairs several sub committees to help fulfill mission.

The Board of Deacons

The Deacons visit shut-ins, facilitate transportation to worship for members with disabilities, and serve bereavement luncheons. This board also organizes Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins as well as communion. College care packages are distributed through the Deacons and they are responsible for our Shoe Box Ministry, which provides Christmas boxes to children at a local elementary school.

The Session

Session consists of a number of sub groups to assist in the functioning and organization of our church.

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for the worship service and music programs in the church. These include recruiting lay leaders, greeters, ushers, and communion servers. Worship and Music also coordinates special services such as Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday, prayer vigils and services during the Pastor's absence. This team also supports and oversees activities of the adult vocal and bell choirs, and coordinates obtaining flowers for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas Eve.

The Christian Education Committee oversees all educational programs for all ages of the church. This committee evaluates all curriculum material, recruits teachers and provides support for them, while encouraging leaders to take advantage of new educational programs and events. Developing our Youth program, a well-attended evening Vacation Bible School, and our Disciples program (a 35 week Bible study for adults), are successful accomplishments of this committee. This committee continuously strives to help make disciples of our community.

The Mission and Outreach Committee determines what missions are supported by the church by providing oversight of outreach and community ministry programs. This committee supports active participation of church members and friends in the CROP hunger walk, two food banks (Reynoldsburg Helping Hands and HEART), the Joseph's Coat (free clothing and household goods ministry) and various other missions. The congregation volunteers our time, money and other donations to these wonderful ministries. In addition we participate in the Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival each year providing free fudge and information about our church. We also serve as a pick-up point and supply drivers for Meals on Wheels. In 2011, several members assisted with flood clean-up in West Virginia and southern Ohio, as well as providing adult supervision and literacy instruction for local youth.

The Fellowship and Publicity Committee oversees all the fellowship and publicity events enabling our members and community to fellowship with each other. Fellowship and Publicity has coordinated at least 6 coffee hours per year, family pot lucks, Hanging of the Greens during Advent, and our semi-annual church picnics. The Committee also sponsors several Dine with Nine groups, the recognition of church officers upon completion of their term, development and maintenance of our website and writing of all news releases for upcoming events of the church. In addition, the Committee supports community dinners and an annual Holiday Craft Show that serves as an important fund raiser, brings hundreds of people into the church and engages many members and friends in a variety of support activities.

The Stewardship and Property Committee oversees all areas of the church property and drives the annual stewardship campaign for the church. The Committee spends hours volunteering and caring for our church building and grounds and organizes volunteer work days to clean and provide needed upkeep of the grounds.. They manage budgeted funds to maintain the upkeep and improvements for the church, including supervising our Facilities Manager. Stewardship emphasizes all-around giving, including tithes and talents. Recently this group coordinated the re-upholstery of all of our pews by dedicated members at a savings of over \$14,000.

Other Committees and Ministries

The Nominating Committee consists of two Elders, one Deacon and five members elected by the congregation. This group is responsible for electing new officers for the positions of Deacon and Elder when needed. It is also responsible for electing the PNC.

The Endowment Committee is entrusted to the endowment offerings ensuring that the funds are invested and used properly. The tree of giving was initiated by this committee where members can buy tree branches and leaves in honor of anyone they choose.

The Personnel Committee is responsible for maintaining all staff records. This committee actively updates personnel manuals, job descriptions, and evaluation forms. Along with the Pastor, this committee completes staff performance evaluations and mediates personnel problems when and if they arise. The personnel committee assists in finding new staff if needed.

Our **Women of the Church** ministry meets to encourage fellowship events such as the Parent's Coffee/Fellowship Time. They also sponsor a family for Christmas and make blankets and quilts and raffle them in order to donate to several different missions, and support others missions including providing supplies for newborns served by local outreach programs.

At Parkview we have a very active **Prayer Chain** to assist in the needs of our congregation, community, and world. There are 4 Prayer Captains who in turn reach out to several others about prayer requests. We also have prayer vigils twice a year, opening up the church for anyone who wants to spend time with God.

The **Parents' Day Out** program meets every Friday morning during the school year. This is a community outreach that provides a nurturing environment where children can grow both socially and spiritually.

The church also provides a meeting place for **Boy Scout Troop 68** and **Cub Pack 68**, which are very active groups, thereby facilitating the nurturing of the qualities of integrity, character and good citizenship, all preparatory to successful adulthood. In return we have also been the recipients of two Eagle Scout projects benefiting the church.

The **Crafters** is a fellowship group of anyone (in and outside the church) who get together on occasion, chat, get to know each other better and generally work on their own crafting projects.

WELCOME TO REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO

THE WELCOME MAT IS OUT IN REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO

Reynoldsburg, Ohio is a community of almost 36,000 people located in a vibrant, growing, tri-county, suburban/exurban area twelve miles east of the Ohio state capital building in downtown bicentennial Columbus. Although surveyed during Thomas Jefferson's

Presidency, the "City of Respect" focuses on the future. Situated near I-70E and I-270 outerbelt, conveniently located near Port Columbus International Airport, Reynoldsburg and area residents benefit from abundant consumer shopping, many hospitals, colleges, universities, the top-rated Columbus Metropolitan Library system, adult and child day care resources, and abundant recreational and cultural opportunities. Several national firms are headquartered in Columbus, including the Limited Brands, American Electric Power, Nationwide Insurance, Cardinal Health and Big Lots. Columbus is the seat of state and county government, which helps to assure that the local economy is generally strong. In addition, Scioto Downs, The Ohio Fire Academy, The Ohio Department of Agriculture Labs, the Ohio E.P.A. Lab, The Limited Stores Distribution Center, and TS Tech (a Honda Motors supplier), are some of the employers located in or near Reynoldsburg.

The city is known as “The Birthplace of the Tomato,” and the annual Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival celebrates Alexander Livingston's development and commercialization of the Paragon Tomato. Check out several suggested websites for the big picture:

www.parkviewpresbyterian.org

www.Dispatch.com

www.ci.reynoldsburg.oh.us

www.nbc4i.com

www.ode.state.oh.us

www.myfox28.com

www.whitepages.com

www.mapquest.com

www.yellowpages.com

www.ThisWeekNEW.com

www.Dispatch.com/wherewelive

www.10TV.com

EDUCATION: Reynoldsburg City Schools opened its second public high school and an adjacent elementary school in September, 2011 adding to the eleven existing school buildings. Reynoldsburg Schools are rated "excellent" by the Ohio Dept. of Education report card. Even though Reynoldsburg's per pupil expenditure is second from the lowest in Franklin County, a large percentage of our students score at advanced and accelerated levels. Pickerington, Gahanna, Licking Heights, and Southwest Licking school districts are south, north, and eastern neighbors with Columbus City Schools and Whitehall and Bexley suburban schools to our west. As part of the Eastland Joint Vocational School District additional options are provided Reynoldsburg students: the Eastland JVS performing arts program is housed at one Reynoldsburg High School. In addition, the Reynoldsburg school district is becoming a Columbus State University branch campus affording dual credit avenues while new joint programs with Mt. Carmel Hospital provide on-site medical services and training. Schools and preschools in the vicinity, sponsored by St. Pius Catholic Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, and Eastside Grace Brethren Church are also available. Highly rated private schools in the area also include the Columbus Academy, Columbus School for Girls, and the Torah Academy.

Colleges and universities in Columbus include: The Ohio State University, Capital University (including Capital Lutheran Seminary), Otterbein College; Ohio Dominican University, Columbus State University, Central Ohio Technical College, and Franklin University. Several universities have branches near-by, including Ohio University, Ashland University, and The Ohio State University (Newark Branch). A little farther away are Ohio Wesleyan University, The Methodist Theological Seminary, Denison University and the Pontifical College Josephinum. These comprise a portion of area opportunities for career and educational advancement.

HEALTHCARE: Several well-rated, major hospitals call Columbus home, including Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Ohio State University Hospital (including the James Cancer Center), Grant Medical Center, Mt. Carmel Medical Center, and Riverside Methodist Hospital. Newer smaller surgical and care centers have been established in New

Albany(north) and Diley Ridge at Pickerington/Canal Winchester area of Fairfield County (southeast). Berger, Fairfield Medical Center Lancaster, and Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark are also accessible.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL AREA: Among the plethora of religious denominations represented are: Church of Christ, Nazarene, Latter Day Saints, Muslim, A.M.E., Presbyterian, the strong Jewish community, Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Grace Brethren, Episcopal.

ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION: Columbus offers a rich array of cultural and recreational opportunities for a growing population, including Jack Hannah's Columbus Zoo, the Center of Science and Industry, a beautiful Metropolitan Park District (including Blacklick Woods Park in Reynoldsburg and Pickerington Ponds wetlands), the new downtown Scioto Mile Riverfront park, the Franklin Park and Conservatory, the Columbus Symphony, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, and the Columbus Museum of Art. Event locations for musical and theatrical performances include the Ohio Theatre, the Southern Theatre, The Alladin Shrine Center, Nationwide Arena, Schottenstein Center, Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, Wexner Center for the Performing Arts, Otterbein College Community events include the annual Fourth of July celebration on the Columbus riverfront, "Red, White and Boom!" and the monthly Gallery Hop in the Short North, summer outdoor plays in German Village's Schiller Park, Oktoberfest, the Ohio State Fair, multiple ethnic festivals, and the annual summer Arts Fair and Winterfest.

Sports offerings include the variety of sports teams at the Ohio State University, Huntington Park and the Columbus Clippers minor league baseball team, the Columbus Blue Jackets Professional Hockey Team at the Nationwide Arena, the Columbus Crew professional soccer team, the Memorial Golf Tournament, National Trails Raceway, and Columbus Motor Speedway.

Ohio Stadium, St. John's Arena, Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Short North and the Gallery Hop, the "Y" downtown, Fawcett Center at OSU, Tennis tournaments, softball, youth sports, horseback riding, and polo have homes here, too. Many summer water activities find residents on the road to a lake: Buckeye Lake, Lake Erie, or the Ohio River.

Farmers' markets and festivals celebrating tomatoes, popcorn, cheese and pumpkins abound in Ohio during the summer. Put-in-Bay and the islands, summer outdoor historical dramas, (i.e., "Tecumseh"), outdoor Cleveland Symphony concerts, theatre in Goodale Park, Civil War reenactment campsites, Lily Fest and Old Man's Cave in the Hocking Hills in south central Ohio, and the Yankee Peddler and Renaissance Festivals entice attendees as they are all within driving distance from our central location.

COMPETING MARKET AND REGION: Reynoldsburg is part of the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, which at over 1.8 million people is the 32nd largest MSA in the United States. Located on the east side of Columbus, Reynoldsburg shares its borders with Columbus and other suburbs, including Whitehall on the west, Gahanna and Blacklick on the north, Pataskala, Etna, Pickerington and Canal Winchester to the east and south. Parkview draws its members and friends from several communities, particularly Reynoldsburg, Pickerington, Canal Winchester, Columbus and Whitehall.

There are Presbyterian churches located in Pickerington and Gahanna, and several Presbyterian churches throughout the Columbus MSA (including a very small second Presbyterian Church in Reynoldsburg). The Reynoldsburg area is home to 50 churches (not including those in Gahanna or Pickerington), including a large Methodist church, a large Grace Brethren Church, several Baptist churches, a Mormon Stake Center, three Lutheran churches, a large Macedonian Orthodox church, a Catholic parish, several community churches and a very large non-denominational church (World Harvest). The Vineyard Church is active in the Columbus area, with a small start-up in Reynoldsburg. As the population growth continues to move to the east, formally rural communities are home to additional denominational and non-denominational congregations.

RESPONSES/SUGGESTIONS FROM SMALL GROUP CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS AND WRITE-IN NOTES

Note: The stars following each response indicate how many groups responded with the same or similar ideas

OUR PURPOSE

1. Grow the church. A dying church is of little value/help to others. Attract new members, believers and non-believers, young and old, rich or poor, all races, men, women, and children, etc.*****
2. Bring people to Christ—personal invitation, door-to-door handouts, alternative worship services, visitations, bus ministry, advertising, free community meals, etc.*****
3. Provide opportunities for people to grow their Christian life by participation in the programs and work of the church.***
4. Mission – feed my sheep –share the Good News **
5. Be a sanctuary – a place of peace, hope, safety
6. Christian education – grow spiritually**
7. Meet the needs of its people –care, celebration, etc. Be a support system for one another. ***

8. Join with Presbyterian churches around us when opportune for all of us.***

STRENGTHS OF PARKVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. Smaller size contributes to a welcoming feeling, comfortable, home-like, caring *****
2. Dedicated people – to each other, to the church – spiritually sound ***
3. Mission participation – Joseph’s Coat, Helping Hands, etc. ***
4. Positive outlook of its people **
5. Strong music program –choir, organist, bell choir, children’s choir ***
6. Beautiful location – visible, large property, room for growth, people pass by *****
7. Mature parishioners who are set in their ways but ready to open up, accept new challenges, try new ideas **
8. Lots of opportunity to help, to make a difference **
9. Safe at all times of the day or night
10. Communities surround us that we can draw from
11. One level floor plan – also handicapped accessible
12. Varied ethnicity
13. Program variety
14. Open to community use of building(i.e. Scouts, polling place, etc.)
15. Diversified skills of parishioners

CHALLENGES FACING PARKVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. Small in numbers – need to grow **
2. Specifically, an aging congregation – need for more young families *****
3. Staying relevant in today’s society while maintaining Christian values
4. Need for more volunteers for all phases of church life **
5. Need for a planned program of evangelism
6. Church needs to be marketed
7. Perception of the Presbyterian Church by the community
8. In competition with all community and school events **
9. Entrance obscure – blends with the park – physical orientation of the building **
10. Changing community –ethnicity, economic concerns ***
11. Failure of the community to “try us out”
12. Traditional only – not contemporary
13. Lack of follow-up with visitors
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14. Ministry in transition
15. Reaching out to various ethnic groups, those who do not seem to fit the traditional mold
16. Declining resources which increases the difficulty of achieving goals **

HOW TO REACH THE UN-CHURCHED

1. Reach out to the community. Examples of what we do now: Parents' Day Out, Craft Show, Bible School. Ideas for the future: carnival, visit/partner with schools (i.e. Fellowship of Christian Athletes), visit and put up posters on college campuses, Bible Bowl
2. Reach out to those who have left the church – exit interview ***
3. Recognize that older people have new ideas
4. Be willing to listen and learn from younger people, non-judgmentally
5. Pool some resources with another church **
6. Create a “van ministry”
7. Ask if people we meet have a church home – invite them to ours
8. Continue, extend mission work locally (i.e. Joseph's Coat, Helping Hands) **
9. Selectively target community members with special needs, interests (i.e. parents of children with special needs, alcohol dependents, divorces, widowed)
10. Involve children – parents, families will follow ***
11. Improve our “welcome program”– name tags, visitors' phone numbers, e mails
12. Create more and varied events (i.e. contests, talent show)
13. Create rewards for participation, such as prizes, door prizes
14. Blend age groups
15. Create activities beyond Bible study
16. Initiate Sunday morning breakfasts
17. Open church doors to outside groups **
18. Establish worship services at alternate times **

CHARACTERISTICS WE MAY BE LOOKING FOR WHEN SELECTING A NEW PASTOR

1. People skills ***
2. Someone who will challenge, inspire, motivate, uplift, recruit, educate
3. Young – not near retirement –able to commit to Parkview for a long time ***

4. Experienced – has a track record with results – maybe an understudy of a superstar – or retain Pastor Steve to train the new minister **
5. Feels like a teacher
6. High energy level – dynamic ***
7. Welcomes “extra” services, responsibilities
8. Balanced between traditional and contemporary
9. Friendly, outgoing **
10. Active participant, not just an administrator *****
11. Develops new ideas
12. Connects the Bible, Biblical teachings to everyday living
13. Really wants to be at Parkview
14. Family person – has a family**
15. Would work to bring back those who left the church
16. Affordable
17. Ask young people what characteristics they are looking for
18. Problem solver (i.e. small attendance, developing leadership) **
19. Promotes and helps implement outreach and mission
20. Active pastoral care –visits those who are shut in, ill, alone, in hospitals, etc. ***
21. Delivers “good” sermons that are relevant to our needs ***
22. Computer literate
23. Sense of humor, warmth **
24. Relates well to children
25. Ethnicity, gender not a factor in selection

Approved by Session: April 29, 2012