

Mount Cross MET Report

*Rooted in God's Grace to joyfully witness and serve.
Intimacy With God + Inspiring Worship + Intentional Faith Development
Compassionate Outreach + Caring Community*

Guided by our Mission Statement and Core Values (listed above) and the directives provided by our Synod, the Mission Exploration Team undertook to identify connections our congregation can make with the community which may change or enhance its sense of mission /purpose and help clarify the type of pastoral leadership we need for the future. This is a step that precedes the Call Process.

As a congregation, Mount Cross expresses excitement about the future and is ready to try new things. We place great value on worship and relationships. We recognize the importance of helping all grow in faith, particularly children. Members view Mount Cross as a positive force in the community and believe that we have enough people to do ministry well. We are a congregation willing to use and commit our gifts. These strengths along with congregational staff and facility resources equip the congregation to move forward.

MET members collected information and input through survey, solicited input, demographic information, and reviews of community organizations, agencies and churches, and the assets of the congregation. Throughout the process we identified Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Resources. We have identified three mission opportunities where a new pastor can join this congregation in emboldening our ministry and what characteristics/traits in a new pastor would help support these pursuits.

Mission Opportunity I – We hope Mount Cross will commit to learning about the surrounding neighborhood in order to know, advocate for and serve our neighbors.

- Equip congregation with knowledge of the multicultural community that surrounds Mount Cross with resources for the total congregation and developed specifically for committees/functions
- Build discipleship and welcoming skills within the congregation to ready members for reaching out to our neighbors
- Undertake outreach activities to the near community with special focus on new growth areas
 - Use neighbor welcome, worship invitations, and surveys to Springville development and other new residential areas to make our availability known and learn what new residents need and want in support from their community
 - Broadly send welcome messages and worship invitations to area neighbors – 93010
- Connect with nearby schools, community social agencies & local government to aid in defining advocacy and service opportunities for Mount Cross
- Establish an ongoing partnership with our two communing partner churches in Camarillo and the broader faith community in order to strengthen our advocacy potential

Mission Opportunity II - We suggest that Mount Cross make use of people and facility resources to intentionally partner with faith based organizations and community agencies in bringing services to the neighborhood.

- Develop and host occasional and regular onsite programs through partnerships with area agencies such as Camarillo Health Care District & Lutheran Social Services to serve the community and members
- Develop and maintain comprehensive “Camarillo specific” community resource materials
- Partner with churches, social service and public agencies, service clubs, volunteer organizations and others to assist with broader distribution of information

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- Organize and hold forums to bring information resources directly to our neighbors
- Become a visible presence at community events linked to community service and advocacy

Mission Opportunity III – In the very near future, we hope that Mount Cross will strengthen and/or reinvigorate elements of its foundation in order to best welcome and serve our neighbors.

- Bring vibrant leadership and support to every worship opportunity to insure inspiring experience for members and visitors alike
- Strengthen all children’s Christian education with specific need for a program for those under 5.
- Welcome Team needs leadership and program reestablished
- Adopt a broader approach to Stewardship and commit to addressing a year round ministry
- Rebuild an intentional relationship between congregation and Child Development Center (CDC)

Pastoral Characteristics/Traits That Would Support These Mission Opportunities

- Experience with community outreach in a multicultural community
- Evangelism and community discipleship experience and knowledge
- Outgoing, approachable and interested in working with a variety of people and organizations
- Open minded and innovative with an interest in learning, sharing and teaching
- Able to help us integrate our faith with the way we live our lives
- Proven effectiveness as a worship leader

This report is intended to present a limited number of suggested Mission Opportunities based on the data collected and the information considered. We have chosen to focus outward and on our readiness to welcome and serve our changing community. Recommendations are made with the goal to strengthen and renew Mount Cross with no intent to offend. We give recognition to the fact that other areas/programs may also merit review and renewal and are hopeful that the information collected in this effort will be useful in further efforts. Likewise, the pastoral characteristics are only those that support the presented Mission Opportunities and are not a final comprehensive list that will be considered by the Call Committee. All collected information will be provided as supporting documentation and will be available to the Church Council, Committees and members in a notebook in the Church Office.

MET members have served with a deep commitment to Mount Cross and give thanks to all who provided input and support to the process.

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Mary Goodenough

Gordon Henry

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Joe Swindle

Susan Prosser, Chair

Pastor Jim Bessey, Advisor

Pastor Marj Funk-Pihl, Synod Advisor

Please continue to pray for our church during this period of transition. Pray for patience. The search process can go on longer than expected. Pray for people doing the work and for those who must wait without knowing exactly what is going on. Pray that we all trust as the process takes place.