

In 2022, the Strategic Management Committee of the Board evaluated the success of our last Strategic Plan and discussed the results in the June 2022 Congregational Meeting. The kickoff meeting for the new 3–5-year Strategic Planning Committee occurred August 14, 2023. The Committee reviewed the process and the proposed questions to be discussed in focus groups.

We are a community of communities. The focus groups will meet with our many communities. The proposed questions were pretested at our Board Retreat and then improved by input from the full BOT. The questions will be available in advance to those choosing to participate in focus groups and to all congregants in upcoming communications. Many of the meetings will follow the second service on Sundays, but other dates and times will be provided. These meetings will be in person. Zoom focus groups for congregants who remain at home and do not feel comfortable attending in person will also be scheduled. Among other communications to the congregation, we plan to provide monthly updates on progress toward completion of the plan.

In my experience participating in strategic planning in many organizations, I have often encountered skepticism and a lack of enthusiasm for this type of exercise. Indeed, many plans are over-detailed, never consulted after being written, and progress toward the plan's goals unreported or never evaluated. We are committed to a tight, achievable, living, and breathing plan linked to our values, mission, and vision. Once created, we plan to report annually on progress towards the achievement of our goals.

Glenn Davis
Board President