

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church of Christ**

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Dear members and friends,

Enclosed with this letter you'll find a working draft of the new OCC vision Statement offered by the Re-envisioning Steering Committee for wide-ranging comment and conversation within our faith community. What's a vision statement? A vision statement is a declaration of what we consider to be the heart and soul – the essential identity and vision – of our church. It is a message to ourselves, a promise to the wider community, and a guiding light for the next steps ahead in our two-year re-envisioning process.

The primary source of the OCC Vision Statement is actually the congregation itself, and what we have learned and shared together over the course of ten insightful and revealing “town hall” meetings held between May 2010 and May 2011. We have investigated the cultural and demographic shifts of the past fifty years that have dramatically altered the religious environment of our country, nowhere more acutely than here in our secularized, highly-educated, post-modern, media-conscious Bay Area. We have probed the character and spirit of Orinda Community Church, and looked deeply into the nature and role of Christian faith in our world and in our lives. We have explored issues of organization, leadership, spiritual practices, mission and program. We have frequently been moved and challenged by the Holy Spirit. And we have tried to incorporate what we have heard and seen into our Vision Statement.

What happens now? The Re-envisioning Steering Committee is eager to receive your questions, comments, critiques and suggestions regarding the Vision Statement. You can speak directly with any member of the Steering Committee, the Church Council or the pastoral staff. You can also email the Committee in care of office@orindachurch.org. **A special Town Hall Meeting Luncheon will be held after church on Sunday, August 7, solely for the purpose of discussing the Vision Statement and seeking possible ways to improve it.** By mid-September, we hope to have this working draft shaped up into a final form that can be confidently adopted by a Special Meeting of the Congregation. A projection of further “next steps” will also be found in this mailing.

Faithfully, your OCC Re-envisioning Committee,

*Kurt Sunderbruch (chair), Sabine Hathaway, Anne Long, David Milnes,  
Susan Russell, Roger Samuelsen, Bob Winbigler, Frank Baldwin (ex. officio)*