

Guide for Decision-Making: Davis UMC

The hope is for decisions to be made at Davis UMC based on the values and priorities of this church with an eye to the “big picture.”

When considering any proposed course of action (project, decision, program) ask:

1. **Is it aligned with the DNA of Davis UMC? How?**
2. **Does it advance the current ministry emphases that have been identified by Davis UMC? How?**
3. **Is it realistic?**

When the need for a decision comes up, use the following questions to evaluate possible options:

1. How does this option/decision align with the DNA of Davis UMC?

Will choosing this option/going in this direction help us be more spirit-filled, welcoming & affirming, and service & justice oriented? Consider the shared definitions that DUMC has adopted for the elements of our DNA:

- **Spirit-filled** – We are loved by God and loving of others. We trust in God’s grace and are inspired to grow closer to God.
- **Service and Justice oriented** – We share God’s compassion for all who suffer from injustice, respectfully working both to improve their circumstances and to change the underlying injustice. As stewards of all God’s creation, we strive to protect the earth and to help it flourish.
- **Welcoming and Affirming** – We are welcoming and affirming through words and actions offering many ways to be a part of God’s community. We listen, accept and support everyone in a non-judgmental way. To complement this effort, we are committed to reaching beyond our comfort zone and to providing a pleasant physical environment.

2. Which of our three current ministry emphases at DUMC does this project support or advance, and how? Consider the specific “Bold Visions” DUMC has adopted for our three identified ministry emphases:

- **Service and Justice/Church & Society Bold Vision**
The people of Davis United Methodist Church intentionally engage the last, the least, and the lost of our community – actively ministering to them while tirelessly addressing underlying injustice as God leads. Our first focus is local, yet global needs also energize and mobilize us. Actions that are spirit-filled, welcoming and affirming, and service and justice oriented find permission, encouragement, and support here. The scope can be small to large and one-time to ongoing, and can readily draw in others beyond this church.
- **Small Groups Bold Vision**

Small groups at Davis United Methodist Church embody our congregational DNA – spirit-filled, welcoming and affirming, service and justice oriented. Opportunities to participate are widely known within the congregation and the larger community. Compassionate, non-threatening groups forge relationships to self, others, community and Spirit; individuals of all ages and stages are embraced, known, celebrated and supported. Groups vary with a rich mix of topics, formats and activities including creative and physical expression as well as theological study and spiritual exploration. Davis United Methodist Church honors small groups as an essential ministry.

■ **Worship Bold Vision**

Davis United Methodist Church provides worship experiences in which people of all ages and backgrounds are welcomed and actively involved. The Christian tradition is honored and meaningfully placed in our contemporary context. The worship service engages both our intellect and our heart by drawing on the community's artistic, musical, and performance skills to joyfully convey Jesus' message of service, justice and vitality. We depart having had an opportunity to reflect on the message and are eager to go forth manifesting the love of God in our lives and in the world.

3. Is it realistic?

These are some “nuts & bolts” questions designed to help set up any course of action for success.

- does the project/program have a leader? a team to work on it? adequate volunteer commitment?
- is there a clear action plan?
- what is the timeline?
- is the goal of the project being achieved in other ways? does this project help fill a gap?
- have all the related/impacted ministry groups been included in the conversation?
- what is the cost? what is the plan for funding? (*note: ideas in need of special fundraising must be approved by the Church Council*) what will the impact be on church finances?
- does the process honor the roles, responsibilities, and procedures defined in our church's formal structures?

Goals of this guide are **not**: to create rules or rigid procedures; to control and restrict church volunteers or ministries; to restrict ideas or energy.

The goals of this “guide” **are**:

- to call us to the higher ground in our conversations and decision-making;
- to make sure anything we undertake, any direction we move in, is aligned with the DNA of Davis UMC and forwards the chosen ministry emphases of DUMC.
- to promote a spirit of collaboration rather than competition: we are working together to strengthen Davis UMC's DNA and advance DUMC's ministry emphases through whatever projects/activities do that best.
- to be helpful.