

## GUIDING CONCEPTS

1. The mission of The First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak is to be an inclusive Christian community in the heart of Royal Oak serving God, one another, and the world.
2. We have a rich heritage built on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ and the witnesses who have gone before us. Since 1838 we have been a congregation in Royal Oak and have occupied our current building for nearly 100 years. We remember a time when the social structure of Royal Oak and our church were vastly different. We overflowed with people of all ages, provided opportunities for spiritual growth and outreach, and were the center of activity in Royal Oak and beyond.
3. We treasure the gift of music, opportunities for spiritual growth and learning, special times with children and youth, relationships that are nourished in the church, the beauty of the sanctuary, and a substantial building.
4. We seek to follow the commandment of Jesus to love God and neighbor and to gather for worship, study, fellowship, and mission, in a place that exemplifies this. Hospitality, accessibility, and community are high priorities for us.
5. We hope to pass on to future generations:
  - a. A place in which children and youth are nourished in the faith.
  - b. A commitment to the open, honest study of scripture and exchange of ideas.
  - c. Facilities that will support the mission of the church and will be spiritually, socially, ecologically, and financially sustainable.
  - d. Renewed hope - a gift to the future.
  - e. Our United Methodist Heritage.
  - f. Creative approaches to ministry, including partnering with other churches.
  - g. A vibrant place for the mission of the church to thrive.
  - h. An attitude of tolerance.
  - i. A building that is inviting, encourages music, education, evangelism, and outreach, and supports our ministries.
  - j. A willingness to change to meet the needs of the time.
6. We will approach this task with God-pleasing:
  - a. Stewardship of resources, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, and service.
  - b. Collaboration, direction, and expertise from professionals.
  - c. Creativity and open mindedness in our design solutions.
  - d. Clear and open communications.
  - e. Discernment of our future vision as we reflect on scripture, tradition, experience, and reason.
7. We, the Master Plan Study Committee, after reflecting on our past, present, and future with the larger group of Advisors, prayerfully bind ourselves to these Guiding Concepts to direct us in making any changes to our church home.