



Our Journey This Year
Crafting Our Vision Statement

Year of Decision
Fourth Focus Discussion
May 10th, 2007



Why Have We Done This?

Because Channing is changing!





Our Goal

By June 2007, Channing Church has reached a consensus on a common vision for our ministry and our property that empowers the Congregation and its leadership to move in specific directions.

Channing Governing Board, September 2006



The Year of Decision Process

Maturational & Incarnational

**Needs and Desires: Ministerial, RE,
Programs, Property, Outreach**

Focus Discussion #1: What do we want?

Focus Discussion #2:
Understanding growth and
the relationship between
wants and resources.

Focus Discussion #4:
Crafting our vision.

Focus Discussion
#3: Finding where
we want to realign
wants and
resources.

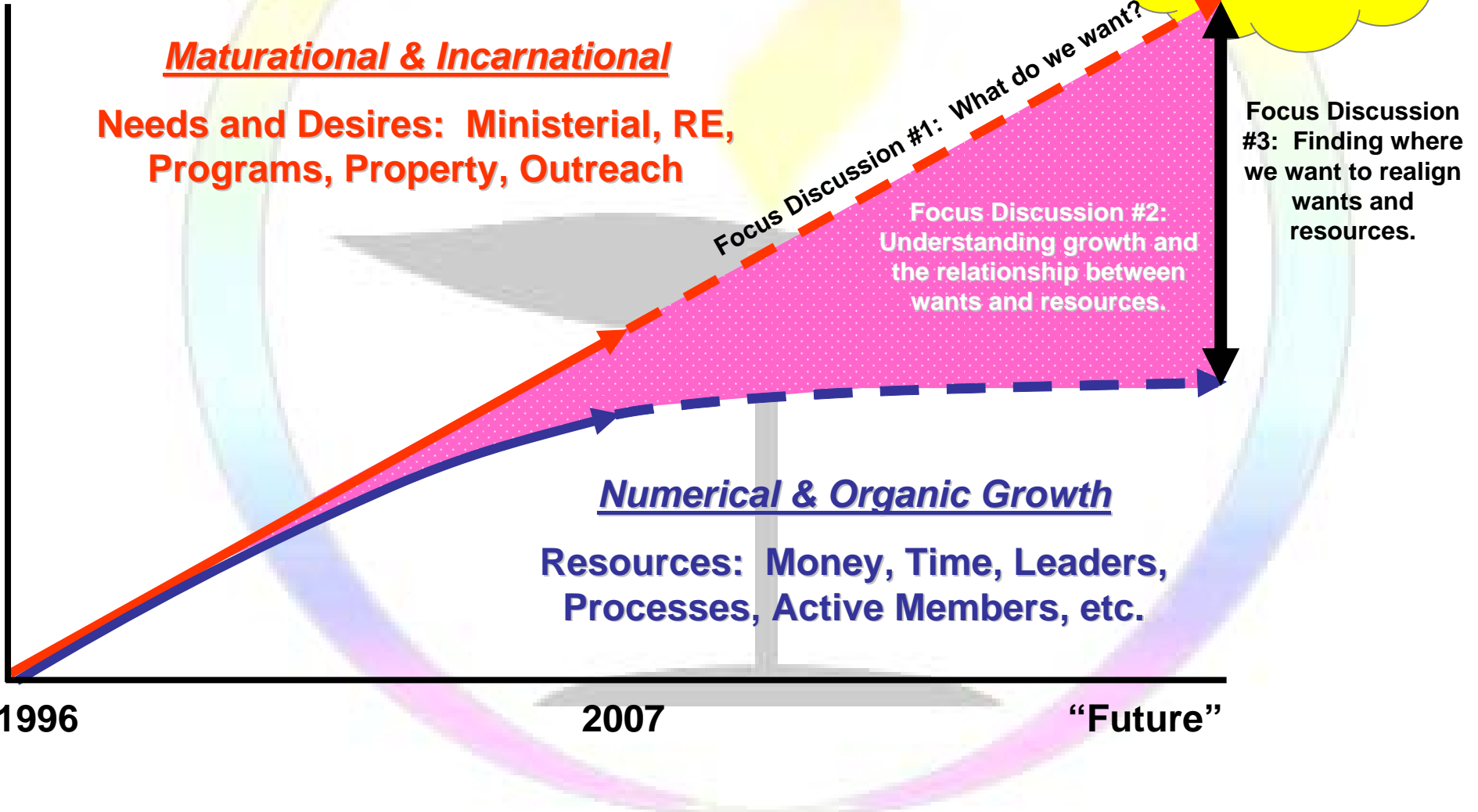
Numerical & Organic Growth

**Resources: Money, Time, Leaders,
Processes, Active Members, etc.**

1996

2007

“Future”





What We Have Accomplished

A Rigorous, Inclusive, Process

- 1. Governing Board Retreat** **September 16th, 2006**
 - **Board established the goal.**
- 2. Leadership Meeting** **October 21st, 2006**
 - **Current church leadership and past presidents invited.**
 - **Approved our process and empowered Transition Team.**
- 3. First Focus Discussion** **November 9th, 2006**
 - **Attendees expressed what we value and what we want.**
- 4. “Month of Education”** **January 1st – 31st, 2007**
 - **Church leaders and committees evaluated needs and desires and identified resource shortfalls.**
- 5. Second Focus Discussion** **February 3rd, 2007**
 - **Attendees discussed church growth and explored whether there is a misalignment between needs / desires and resources.**
- 6. Third Focus Discussion** **March 14th, 2007**
 - **Transition Team provided analytical insight into how we can find the resources to meet our needs / desires.**
 - **Attendees discussed analysis and made several commitments.**



Who We Are and What We Value

***To accept and honor free
expression of religious
beliefs.***

***We are a loving, caring, spiritual
community that embraces
diversity and promotes the
freedom of belief.***

***We value the spiritual inspiration
we derive from our sacred space,
filled with fellowship, music and
our voices together.***

***To be a caring church family
that works together to make
the world a better place.***

***To celebrate who
we are
and how we differ.***

***To encourage
spiritual growth.***



To What We Are Committed

- We are committed to creating and sustaining a foundation for our children which fosters their spiritual growth, guides their search for truth and empowers them to work for justice.
- We are committed to encouraging exploration of spirituality by each individual.
- We are committed to promoting greater love and understanding among ourselves, in our community, in our country, and in the world.
- We are committed to reaching out to and serving others in our community, our country, and the world.
- We are committed to shared ministry among our Minister, Staff, and Congregation to facilitate individual ministry and realize ministry together.



To What We Are Committed ***(continued)***

- **We are committed to maintaining and perpetuating this church as a memorial to the life and teachings of the Reverend Doctor William Ellery Channing, the founder of American Unitarianism, in Newport, Rhode Island, the town of his birth.**
- **We are committed to providing welcoming space to support and promote our church's ministry and programs for those within the congregation and beyond.**
- **We are committed to finding and providing the resources necessary to realize our vision.**
- **We are committed to practicing Congregational polity; coming together in a spirit of friendship to forge consensus on important decisions and then empowering our Minister, our Staff, and our Lay Leaders to take action to implement those decisions and realize our vision.**



Elements of a Successful Vision

INSPIRING!

Focused

Imaginable

Flexible

*Values -
Focused*

Communicable

Desirable

*Feasible but
Lofty*



Sample UU Vision Statements

- **Durham UU Fellowship, Durham, NH:**
 - The real test of our religion is the way we live our lives. The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism.
 - We seek to be a place in which each person's unique worth and beliefs are acknowledged and respected and where each person's voice may be heard – a place in which each may freely explore his or her own spiritual path.
 - We join with others in reaching out to make the world more just, and commit ourselves to caring for the earth and all that makes up the web of life.
 - We strive to be a source of inspiration, a forum for intellectual exchange, a wellspring of comfort to those in need, and a nurturing, supportive community for each other and our children.



Sample UU Vision Statements

- **Unitarian Church of Charlestown, South Carolina:**
 - **As members and friends of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, we commit ourselves to principled actions that honor the generations that have brought us here; responsibly nurture our resources, one another, and our greater community; and make possible the spiritual journeys of our church family and the generations to come. Our diversity enhances us, our love guides us, and our convictions strengthen us.**

Unitarian Universalism--open faith, open hearts, open minds



Sample UU Vision Statements

- **Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County, Oregon:**
 - **We strive to be an inclusive spiritual community that embodies and promotes:**
 - peace and justice for all peoples,
 - respect and responsibility for the earth,
 - freedom of thought,
 - the democratic process,
 - education and spiritual growth,
 - for ourselves, our community, and our world.



Our Task Today

- **Each discussion group crafts a vision statement.**
 - **Concise.**
 - **Comprised of the seven elements.**
 - **Constrained by what we value and to what we are committed.**
- **Group spokesmen gather to form final statement.**
- **Final statement (with values and commitments) will be presented at Annual Meeting for an up or down vote.**