

2025-2026 Intentional Interim Report

Key Actions

Outreach (see complete document) - Enhanced electronic presence/usage:

1. New website launched - many thanks to Rich Heend and his associate Beth!
2. Created weekly meditation distributed electronically: Carol's Corner via Constant Contact
3. Added electronic distribution of eKYP & Vine via Constant Contact
4. Increased Promotion via Social media accounts

Christian Education - Expanded Youth Ministries:

1. Amended job description for youth activities coordinator
2. Employed Tara Lowry as youth activities coordinator
3. Created Faith 101 for younger youth- Tara wrote curriculum.
4. Began Confirmation Class- Rev. Doni Driemeier-Showers & Jo Ann leading
5. Updated former nursery room for youth/multi-purpose CE space (in progress)

Fellowship - Enhanced Fellowship Opportunities

1. Restored weekly fellowship after worship
2. Added Homecoming Sunday event – worship and luncheon
3. Restarted annual Blessing of the Pets with Fall BBQ Worship: 1

Worship – Restored pre-COVID elements & Enhanced Livestream

1. Established a media team to set goals and procedures, upgrade processes, evaluate equipment to enhance live-streaming.
2. Restored worship to pre-COVID norms: resume passing of the peace, offering, communion sacraments distribution.

Interim Transition – Led congregation through a time of change

1. Selected 6 team members to represent the congregation. Members participated in monthly meetings October through March to assist in leading congregation through the interim process.
2. Participated with Interim Transition Team who created & led two surveys of congregation; results given to Pastoral Search Committee
3. Led Church Council and congregation in “Dreaming God’s Dream” visioning sessions; results given to Pastoral Search Committee

Outreach 2025-2026

Last year as I was interviewing, there were specific questions about outreach. I truly believe that outreach (Matthew 28:16-20) reflects Jesus' instruction for us all. However, specifically in a job description, it is the responsibility of the pastor.

The following is a list of what has been initiated as outreach in this first 12 months of my interim contract:

- Emphasized outreach to the people who come to Ivy due to rental contracts/agreements
 1. Hospitality – Kara has added hospitality items in the restrooms
 2. Vision - all people as “guests” rather than “visitors” or “renters”
 3. Clear signage – entrance, exits, Welcome table for guests
 4. Accessibility – ADA compliant doors; keyless entry
 5. Safety – replacement of sweet gum trees, remove trip hazards
- Hosted Homecoming Sunday to invite former members, friends of Ivy, and as well as current members with infrequent attendance
- New website – modern, fresh, clean appearance that is easy to navigate
- Social media – more emphasis on regular posting to Facebook & Instagram accounts; creating events; tracking response
- Joined LGBTQ Faith Alliance to raise visibility of Ivy's Open and Affirming welcome; will participate in Pride St. Louis to represent Ivy Chapel
- Emphasis on programming for Youth – hiring Youth Activities Coordinator, Bible presentation “catch up”, Youth Sunday, scholarships for camp, Confirmation, Faith 101
- Fall BBQ/Pet Blessing event moved to first weekend in October

Here are some other outreach areas we could pursue:

- Increase in community involvement – Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Advertising in local community and/or greater St. Louis publications
- Sponsorship/Hosting community activities or events
- Settled Pastor more engaged with youth and family events/activities
- Others???