

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Mission and Vision Statements
Draft 1June07

MISSION:

Worshipping Christ and shining His light to the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the world.

VISION:

By the year 2017, St. Aidan's will become a **beacon** to the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the world, a presence marked by activity seemingly all day and all night: lights always on and doors always open. St. Aidan's would become the "**church in the marketplace**", providing both a parish home to its members and a relevant Christian presence to those who pass our doors every day. St. Aidan's would appear to be a place of **blessed chaos**: many concurrent ministries of outreach, service, conversation, fellowship and learning, surrounding and supported by a core of Eucharistically-centered worship, pastoring and prayer.

What we will look like:

- A large congregation with substantial constituencies of students, families, and core members
 - Students might typically be in the congregation for a few months to a few years, being formed in discipleship and pastored and mentored through a hectic phase of their lives – our ambassadors in training, emphasizing outreach and prayer ministries
 - Families might typically be in the congregation for a few years to a few decades, being formed in discipleship, pastored and mentored through family years, -- our core members in training, emphasizing service and worship ministries
 - Core members might typically be both long-tenure members and deeply committed to the life and programs of St. Aidan's, providing much of the ministry leadership.
- We would also be likely to see large numbers of students and the poor whom we are serving on our campus, as well as University and city community members attending programs.

What our activities will include:

- The traditional congregation and community services of a large suburban or small city church
- Programs to assist the students and the poor in the community
 - Basic living assistance, probably in combination with other agencies
 - Discernment, pastoral, and mentoring support
- Programs of conversational, musical, and educational dialogue between the university and city populations and among all faiths, probably in combination with other agencies

What our facilities will look like:

- Campus used more intensively, including support for ministries of service and outreach
- Sanctuary larger, reorganized and opened to Colorado Avenue
- Chapel, hall, and most other public spaces configured for multiple and intensive uses.
- Some peaceful core facilities mirroring and supporting our worship-centered life

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QUESTIONS:

1. Is the vision statement acceptable in form and content?
2. Are the mission and vision consistent?
3. Is Epiphany an important feast and season to St. Aidan's (Matthew 2:1-12)?
4. Does this passage have meaning to the vision?
¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matt 5:14-16 NRSV)
5. Do we need to re-think our prayers for the parish?

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with this parish as we continue to discern and act upon the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace and resources to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p. 818 modified)

Our Father, who has set a restlessness in our hearts, and made us all seekers after that which we can never fully find; forbid us to be satisfied with what we make of life. Draw us from base content, and set our eyes on far-off goals. Keep us at tasks too hard for us, that we may be driven to You for strength. Deliver us from fretfulness and self pity; make us sure of the goal we cannot see, and of the hidden good in the world. Open our eyes to simple beauty all around us, and our hearts to the loveliness men hide from us because we do not try enough to understand them. Save us from ourselves, and show us a vision of a world made new. May your Spirit of peace and illumination so enlighten our minds that all life shall glow with new meaning and new purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Prayers New and Old: Our High Calling)

6. Are there any outstanding linkages between our mission and vision, on the one hand, and the life and acts of St. Aidan, on the other?
7. Once vision (goals) and mission are in place, it would be appropriate to state strategies – how will this be accomplished?
8. Should staff and vestry organization be reviewed in light of mission/vision/strategy/action items/plans?
9. The notes of the vestry retreat did not contain any reference whatsoever to Canterbury (Emcub) as a separate entity, and spoke of the campus ministry as integral to the ministry of St. Aidan's as a parish. The draft vision statement, therefore, does not speak of Canterbury as a separate entity. Does this affect our vision?