

# 2025 Vision Process at LMUMC

Dear Lake Merritt United Methodist Church Family, grace and peace to you.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I am excited to share a significant opportunity for growth and renewal at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church. Beginning this January, we will embark on a visioning process designed to help us discern God's purpose for our church and shape our path forward.

This visioning journey will provide a sacred space for us to reflect on who we are as a congregation, who God is calling us to become, and how we can more fully live into our current local mission in reaching out to our unhoused and impoverished community through food connection. Through prayer, dialogue, listening, and collaborative discernment, we will explore how our faith and values can guide us in addressing the needs of our church and community. I believe this is God's invitation post COVID era, and as a new church after the merger of former Lake Park UMC and Lake Merritt UMC.

## Why This Visioning Process Matters

A shared vision is the foundation for a thriving and impactful church. It unites us in purpose, energizes our ministries, and equips us to respond faithfully to the challenges and opportunities of our time. This process will help us:

- Clarify our Vision and Articulate a clear set of Core values of our Ministry: Ensuring that our actions align with our calling.
- Identify Priorities: Focusing on the areas where we can make the greatest impact.
- Strengthen our Community: Deepening relationships and building a collective sense of ownership of our future.

## What to Expect

In the next three months, a vision team taskforce invited by Pastor Sunae, including our lay leader and church council co-chairs, will meet with Rev. Sam Yun, Senior Pastor of San Ramon Valley UMC and Chair of the Core Team of our Annual Conference. Two visioning workshops will be led by Rev. Sam Yun. The first is on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, where we will experience an interactive session to think through and establish a common vision for ministry. We will also articulate a clear set of values that define, direct and determine all the opportunities that grow our church and its impact. The second workshop is on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, where we will explore an articulated synthesis (Brand Identity) of the vision stories shared and heard from the previous session.

From these two workshops, we are expecting a written "brand booklet" that will define the newly defined vision and core values of our church. This will include new logo(s) plus text and visual communication materials to better convey our church's vision. In the second phase of our Vision Process, we will also be improving our church's signage, developing a strategic social media presence and revising our website.

## How You Can Help

Whether you've been part of Lake Merritt UMC for decades or are new to our community, we ask you to pray for this process. A suggestion box is available in the sanctuary and we invite you to share your thoughts, ideas, hopes, and stories that you would like to be lifted up during this visioning process.

Together, let us open our hearts to the Spirit's leading, trusting that God will guide us toward a future filled with hope and purpose. Thank you for your commitment to this journey.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Sunae Cho, Lead Pastor of Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

