



Strategic Priorities

2024-2026



PARK AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OUR VISION

We aspire to be a vibrant Christ-centered, multiracial, multiethnic, intergenerational church actively engaged with our neighborhood and world.

OUR SOURCE

Believing in a triune God, we are awakened by God's grace in Christ to embody the spiritual vitality of faith, hope, and love in our relationships. We seek to trust God, live expectantly, and behave generously.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. God's first call to LOVE. Following Jesus' invitation to love each other as we are loved, we seek to practice loving God, each other, and ourselves. When aware of our actions that do not model God's love and call of reconciliation, we strive to recognize where we have fallen short and restore relationships we have harmed.
2. RADICAL BELONGING. Rooted in a love modeled after Jesus, we seek to set an example of the diversity of the kingdom of God. We aim to cultivate an organizational culture of radical belonging and gracious welcome for all persons in all that we do.
3. SERVING our neighbors while expanding our regional reach. While Park Avenue Church reaches people from the Twin Cities and beyond, the church was founded and located in our South Minneapolis neighborhood. We believe our most significant impact remains in relevant service to our immediate community.
4. Being a community of HOPE AND HEALING. In our practice of trusting the God of hope and wholeness with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, we seek to be a church of hope and healing, justice and reconciliation in a hurting and fragmented world.

To learn more, visit parkavechurch.org/our-call/

OUR CALL

1 WELCOME & BELONGING We support a place to belong and to be accepted.

We commit to being an inviting and inclusive church, making room for all people. We are dedicated to loving God and neighbor. We desire to build relationships which respect, support, and celebrate our similarities and differences by cultivating shared experiences and acquiring knowledge rooted in understanding and belonging.

2 WELLNESS & WHOLENESS We nurture healthy relationships, healing, and wholeness.

Our health, wellbeing, and spiritual vitality include faith, hope, and love. We seek the essence of shalom, which includes peace, harmony, justice, wholeness, and the enjoyment of all relationships. We confess that we have done wrong. We recognize hurt. We seek reconciliation. We will create brave places to listen, lament, heal, and give comfort. So together we lift up a strong and beautiful community.

3 GROWTH & CELEBRATIONS We grow, learn, and celebrate community.

We long to deepen our discipleship and sanctification by growing our beliefs, actions, and affections of loving God and neighbor. We celebrate and engage in rituals (vibrant worship, faith formation, sacraments), traditions and activities that feed our soul, highlight children and youth engagement, and support our faith and life together.

4 BEING A NEIGHBOR We create vibrant community placemaking.

We desire to deepen our place-based relationships with our community by sharing our resources, supporting local economic growth, honoring historic roots, and becoming active members of the Central Neighborhood. We commit to making our presence on the block, in the building, and online more accessible and welcoming to support congregational and neighborhood growth and vitality.

PRIORITY 1: WELCOME & BELONGING

We support a place to belong and be accepted.

GOAL 1

Create pathways of consistent and inclusive welcoming in all activities and spaces across the organization.

GOAL 2

Enable each person to discover at least one Place of Belonging (POB) in addition to worship.

GOAL 3

Build relationships that respect, support, and celebrate our similarities and differences.

PRIORITY 2: WELLNESS & WHOLENESS

We nurture healthy relationships, healing, and wholeness.

GOAL 1

Nurture healthy relationships, spiritual vitality, and wholeness.

GOAL 2

Establish brave places to listen, lament, heal, and give comfort with and for each other.

GOAL 3

Teach, model, and advocate for Shalom – peace, justice, and harmony to build up healthy relationships and whole communities.

PRIORITY 3: GROWTH & CELEBRATIONS

We grown, learn, and celebrate community.

GOAL 1

Learn and grow in our beliefs, actions, and affections of loving God and neighbor.

GOAL 2

Celebrate and honor our faith and life together.

PRIORITY 4: BEING A NEIGHBOR

We create vibrant community placemaking.

GOAL 1

Establish a ministry of neighborhood engagement.

GOAL 2

Enhance community place-making.