

## Church By Choice

Quick, what is this congregation's mission statement? No fair cheating and looking at the back page to read it. What? You didn't even know it was printed there? And now that you've read it, can you explain what it means? How can we live out our purpose if we don't know what it is?

If there was one thing we on the program staff came away with from our visit to Kansas City's Church of the Resurrection, it was this: Clarity. They know who they are, they know what they are about, and every member of that church can tell you. Who are we? What are we about? How do we get there? When everyone is that clear, it makes it much easier to decide what to do as a congregation, and know what is expected of us as individuals.

In our 12 hour rolling staff meeting on the way home, and later in deep and ongoing conversations, we talked about what the purpose of this congregation is, and how that could drive what we do. We talked about what our expectations are for being a member of this community of faith.

Now it is time to include you in the conversation.

At the February Ministries Council meeting, we will be bringing a proposal that will clarify who we are, and how we go about that purpose. We will name what our expectations are, as specifically as we can. Because we think it is not enough to be Christian By Accident, or Church Of Habit. We need to be the Church On Purpose, to be Church By Choice.

Here is the answers we on staff have arrived at so far, to answer the questions I keep asking

### Who Are We?

**First United Methodist Church of Wausau  
is a worshiping community  
where God is forming deeply committed followers of Christ  
to serve and transform the world.**

### How Do We Get There?

*through*  
**Passionate Worship  
Intentional Faith Formation  
Profound Care  
Bold Outreach**

### What Is Our Goal?

**To Become  
One With Christ  
One With Each Other  
And One in Ministry to All the World**

We invite you, invite anyone who wishes, to join us on this journey, to be the kind of community of faith that is a Church by Choice. Not just a Church by Chance.