

New Ground 9/13/14

All statements collected from the small groups who answered the following questions:

1. What Beliefs and Behaviors must we discard in order to foster our best possible outcomes as a congregation?

- Simply because we are currently in our building, we need to stay in it.
- We might not make it.
- People will just find out how wonderful we are.
- We don't have enough; we are not enough.
- We have to possess a building in order to be a church.
- We don't have enough money.
- We are a safe community (either we claim it or stop proclaiming it)
- [We need to be willing to let go of] the idea that the church should choose my preferences for me to buy in; it's not a short order grill.
- To stop believing that we are always big on talk and short on action and perceive a sense of urgency to make needed decisions
- That things don't need to be done the same just because we've always done it that way.
- Quit thinking that things will just get better.
- Belief: stop thinking the best answers lie [only] within ourselves.
- Behavior: stop discussing the same problems among the same members
- Belief: supporting this church is within our budget and maybe we need to go so far as to stop believing we will ever be able to operate within our budget; if meeting it has always been a problem, maybe it's not realistic
- This is how we've always done it
- Things just magically get done
- The greater church body can just show up and leave
- We actually welcome everyone –ask a conservative visitor how we do
- Stop thinking other people will step up and do it
- Stop fearing change

2. What Beliefs and Behaviors must we maintain or adopt to foster our best possible outcomes as a congregation?

- Continue to be open to all ideas and possible solutions
- Keep men's and women's groups—need to find a way to attract more youth
- Our belief that SOJ is the people, and not the building
- Belief: there are answers that will work for us
- Behavior: everyone shares solution/ideas without solicitation (use website)
- Maintain ministry as is, and seek younger people in the congregation
- Open and affirming.
- Move from fear to faith

- Move from “they, them, minister” to “us, ours” (which behavior would mean having to go some damn church meetings)
- the church’s ultimate purpose is to equip and support us to be a blessing in the world;
- A feel good church is a by-product, not a goal.
- Everyone is welcome as a truth; who we are as creatures of God and who God is
- I am enough.
- Consensus as a strategy to resolve issues
- What is our spiritual gift? We are the spiritual gift; and we are all uniquely gifted.
- Fundamental understanding that human beings are good at our core, despite any flaws or sins.
- God is love.
- Be truly open to new ideas, really listen before putting up barriers.
- Renewing our covenant annually.