



Kingswood United Methodist Church

“A personal Church in an impersonal World”

Vision 2020 Committee Summary Report – August 2007
A Vision of the future ministry at Kingswood

VISION 2020

Preface.....	3
Vision.....	4
Vision 2020 Committee.....	5
The Church Council Charter.....	6, 7
Kingswood’s Mission	8
Our Historical Witness in the Community.....	9, 10
Perspective – Our Present Situation.....	11, 12, 13
Inspiring Worship.....	14
Evangelism and Assimilation.....	15
Children’s Ministry	16
The Kingswood School	17
Youth Ministry.....	18
Young Adults Ministry.....	19
Women’s Ministry.....	20
Men’s Ministry	21
Family Ministry.....	22
Prayer Ministry.....	23
Missions.....	24
Habitat for Humanity Housing.....	25
Music, Drama, and the Arts Ministry.....	26



VISION 2020

The Community Life Center	27, 28
• Health and Fitness Programs.....	29
Scouting Ministry.....	30
Stewardship.....	31
The Natural Church Development System	32

Exhibits

- I Vision 2020 Committee Biographical Narratives

- II The Kingswood Leadership Team - 2007

- III Church Operating System Recommendations
(Previously distributed to Church Leadership)



VISION 2020

Preface

This Vision Summary document is a different approach to visioning than the single vision statement format that is customarily used. It is a “collection of visions” from the major areas of ministry at Kingswood UMC.

The Vision 2020 Committee members, motivated by their passionate love for Kingswood, have prepared this document with the intent of providing the reader with a “word picture” of Kingswood in the year 2020 as we see it in our hopes and dreams.

We have sought God’s inspiration with prayer individually and as a Committee and have attempted to keep in mind that even though our words are used, it is His Vision.

Our hope and expectation is that our Vision will create a sense of excitement and desire in the hearts of Kingswood’s Church Council as our leadership team, both Clergy and Laity, and that they will be motivated to challenge the membership to develop the commitment needed to reach the Vision.

The Vision 2020 Committee wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to the Congregation for their prayers and support during the development of this Vision and to our Senior Pastor Dr. Dave E. Benson, our church staff and other members of the leadership team for their wisdom and guidance.

This Vision summary is not considered by the Vision 2020 Committee to be a “final or complete” document.

The Committee recommends the Council use this as a “working document” and that we dedicate the time and resources needed on an annual basis to update the Vision.

Kingswood Vision 2020 Committee
Gary Fuller – Chair
August 19, 2007



VISION 2020

Vision

We see Kingswood in 2020 as if it were already there

To develop a clear view of Kingswood in the year 2020, our first step must be to clarify our purpose as God's Church.

As members of Kingswood, we understand that this is God's Church and that He has a definite ministry for us in the Dunwoody community.

We believe God, as Creator of everything, brought Kingswood to life almost 40 years ago and because His purposes are eternal, He continues to call us to action as His Church today.

We further believe that Kingswood stands poised, at this moment in history, to begin its most exciting years of ministry.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote:

The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand".
(Isaiah 14:24 NIV)

We have devoted much time to prayer, seeking God's wisdom and inspiration to help us understand His direction for us as a Church rather than our personal and perhaps self-centered ideas for the future of Kingswood.



VISION 2020

The Vision 2020 Committee

We have included as Exhibit 1, attached to this document, a brief biographical narrative to introduce the Vision 2020 Committee to the congregation and provide some background information about the members involved in writing this Vision Summary document.

Committee Members

Gary Fuller – Lay Leader, Chair
Lyn Brown
Arthur Collins
Dondra Davis
Jack Devos
Jeff Glaze
Mike Holladay
Marcelle Lewis

Staff Members

Reverend Jenna Mobley – Minister of Community Life
Reverend Dennis Lewallen – Minister of Worship & Administration

Ex Officio Members

Dr. Dave Benson – Senior Pastor
Warren Turner – Church Council, Chair
Clay Snellings – Staff Parish Relations Committee, Chair



VISION 2020

The Church Council Charter

On November 6, 2006, at its regular quarterly meeting, the Council authorized the establishment of a Vision committee known as "The Vision 2020 Committee".

The objectives of the Council were made clear with the approval of a Charter along with accompanying authority to conduct the research needed to develop a vision for use by the Council as guidance in establishing a strategic action plan for the ministry at Kingswood as we move forward toward the year 2020.

The Council further instructed the Vision 2020 Committee to place emphasis on the ministry opportunities associated with the opening of the new Community Life Center.

Charter for the Vision 2020 Committee:

Form a Strategic Visioning Committee for the purpose of identifying potential opportunities which will either build upon and or improve Kingswood UMC's Mission (Attract, Nurture, Send). Potential opportunities should maximize and leverage both the tangible and intangible assets of Kingswood UMC. This committee, comprised of Kingswood Members and Church Staff, will meet on a regular basis for the next six to eight months and will report its progress and recommendations to the Church Council.

The members of the Vision 2020 Committee were appointed and readily agreed to accept the challenge of the assignment.

As a committee the general feeling was one of privilege and honor to have the opportunity to be a part of this undertaking. The development of a long term Vision is a rare event in the life of our church, one that has not been undertaken in over 10 years.

The Vision 2020 Committee has tried very hard to be faithful to the mission of Kingswood as a United Methodist Church with the inclusion of specific ministry opportunities to help us strengthen our spirit of fellowship as a family of Believers which in turn will increase our ability to be a witness in the world around us.



VISION 2020

The addition of the new 26,000 square foot Community Life Center is the realization of a life long dream for the membership of our Church. This new building creates an opportunity known as “Architectural Evangelism”.

The fact that this large scale building has been added to the Dunwoody community streetscape provides Kingswood with a significant opportunity to impact the pre-christian community.

We believe it is vital to the success we have in reaching our Vision that the Church Council request the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPR) to study the future Pastoral and Ministries staff requirements to prepare us from a Leadership perspective, to meet the needs of Kingswood Church.

In some instances, adjustments may be needed in the way we utilize our volunteer organization.



VISION 2020

Kingswood's Mission

Our Mission at Kingswood is built on a foundation of faith and trust in Jesus as the Christ, our Savior and Lord, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our Wesleyan heritage and doctrinal emphases as a United Methodist Church.

The 2004 UMC Book of Discipline

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple making occurs."

We make disciples as we:

- proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;
- lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace;
- send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and
- continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

Faithful Ministry

The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world.



VISION 2020

Our Historical Witness in the Community

Kingswood was chartered in 1968. Some of the original Charter members are still actively involved in our ministry.

Charter Members who are currently members of Kingswood

Hammons, Mrs. Delwin (Nita)
MacConnell, Mrs. D. H. (Joy)
(Mrs. Derek Peters)
Stovell, Mrs. Jack S. (Leone) (Mrs.
Joe Purcell)
Moore, Douglas Q. rejoined
1/13/1993
Moore, Mrs. Douglas (Rita)
Mathis, A. K. (Gus)
Mathis, Mrs. A. K. (Joyce)

Naylor, Mrs. E. P. (Carolyn)
*transferred and rejoined 12/11/1988
Lewis, Ronald F. *transferred and
rejoined 2/25/1978
Lewis, Mrs. Ronald F. (Marcelle)
*transferred and rejoined 2/25/1978
Jackson, Willis O., Jr. (Will)
Jackson, Mrs. Willis O. (Frances)
Logan, Hampton W., Jr.
Logan, Mrs. Hampton W., Jr. (Ellen)

Kingswood was named after a school in England founded by John Wesley. The Congregation, under the leadership of Reverend Orion Hunt, our first Pastor, experienced explosive growth and quickly became an influential witness for the Kingdom of God amid the high growth and affluent new suburban community of North Atlanta known as Dunwoody.

The Kingswood congregation was blessed with the donation of their first five-acre parcel of property adjacent to Tilly Mill Road from the North Georgia Conference Builders Club.

The topography of the property was dominated by a deep “gully” and many considered the location unattractive for development.

The Congregation with the assistance of the North Georgia Conference and the Emory District was able to secure two lots connecting the property to North Peachtree Road.

The members of Kingswood demonstrated a spiritual passion and determined energy combined with generous hearts to construct the first phase of our facility in 1973, which cost \$313,126.



VISION 2020

It was clear from the beginning that God had ordained this congregation at Kingswood as His Church.

The Kingswood congregation is very grateful and appreciative of our connectional affiliation with the United Methodist Church.

This is a major asset that has contributed heavily to the growth and outreach of our Church and we recommend the membership of the twenty-first century Kingswood family of Believers seek ways to take advantage of our connectional affiliation with the United Methodist Church by increasing our participation in the North Georgia Conference ministry and mission programs.

Our Church location on the corner of Tilly Mill Road and North Peachtree Road continues to be a prime, in-town location with approximately 6,000 vehicles per hour passing by this corner during the average “peak hour” traffic period.

Our geographic position and the high number of visual impressions available on a daily basis offer a unique opportunity to proclaim the presence of the Kingdom of God and maximize our impact on the community.

We recommend the Trustees develop a plan to take full advantage of our physical location as we move into the future.

The creation of a “sense of community, people friendly, public space” on our corner lot with intentional, but subtle, signage that capitalizes on the established recognition of our “three crosses” in a modern, influential manner should be considered a priority.



VISION 2020

Perspective - Our Present Situation

Kingswood has served the Dunwoody area for almost 40 years. We have focused our ministry toward the implementation of our mission statement to **Attract, Nurture** and **Send** within the context of a Community Church.

In 2006 our Senior Pastor, Dr. Dave E. Benson, shared his Vision for Kingswood with the Congregation.

A purpose-centered, spiritual gifts-based, missions-oriented community of faith that is known for its highly creative and inspirational worship and operates with a streamlined organizational structure staffed for growth and excellence in ministry.

An analogy has been used to describe Kingswood as a “small college” type of Church. We should not attempt to be an all things to all people, mega “state university” type of church. A small church atmosphere should be viewed as a strength, not a weakness.

The Vision 2020 Committee recognized from the outset that we must approach our task with an attitude of great thankfulness for the many blessings we have as a church family and resist the temptation to be overly critical.

We believe it is important for us as a congregation to maintain a strong sense of self-esteem and self-confidence regarding our Church.

It is important for us as a family of Believers to be open to the gifting and enabling work of the Holy Spirit among us. And, we need to approach our ministry with a “servant’s heart” attitude.

We think it is essential for the Council and the Congregation in total to recognize that we have some major issues of concern that need to be addressed if we are to move forward with our Vision for Kingswood.



VISION 2020

UMC General Council on Finance and Administration Statistics

These following statistics are a portion of the information required of every United Methodist Church on an annual basis. These are some of the factors used by the GCF&A to measure the health of a Church.

Average Worship Service attendance and the percentage of the membership in attendance is one of the more important factors for a Church.

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (6 Mos.)
Confession	8	11	6	10	10	11	0
Restored	1	0	2	2	4	5	3
Transferred	10	24	23	22	5	9	3
Other Den.	15	19	21	20	10	7	4
Avg. Attend	297	284	326	323	295	268	254
Beg. Mem.	1065	985	963	976	871	751	752
Remove CC	54	0	0	113	104	14	0
End Mem.	985	963	976	871	751	752	750

The most recent statistics provided by the GCF&A indicate the average worship service attendance, as a percentage of membership among United Methodist Churches in the U.S., has increased from 36% in 1974 to 42% in 2005. This is viewed by the GCF&A as a sign of increased commitment among the general membership of the average UMC Congregation.

The average 2007 Worship Service attendance as a percentage of our membership at Kingswood is 34% and the recent downward trend in our average attendance numbers is an issue of concern.



VISION 2020

We understand and commend the Charge Conference for their action in recent years to purge the role of names of former members who have moved away from our community or for other reasons are no longer active at Kingswood.

We expect the Natural Church Development System, which is briefly described later in this document, will help in determining our “minimum factor” and serve as a guide in establishing the principles needed to improve in that minimum factor area.

The Vision Committee recommends a dialogue between the Worship Ministry planning team and an advisory group be considered for the purpose of providing constructive and positive feedback, from an overview perspective, concerning the format of our Worship services and other operational aspects of our Sunday morning experience at Kingswood.

We understand the impact technology has had in our world and we recognize that if we are to continue to be an effective Church as we move into the future that we must adopt new methods and formats for ministry.

Expanded use of the Internet to improve our communications and our overall connection with our congregation and other members of the community should be reviewed.



VISION 2020

Inspiring Worship

The primary emphasis of Kingswood is congregational Worship. In accordance with the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline which states:

“The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God.”

“Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world”,

The people of Kingswood look forward to a Sunday morning worship service as a means of deepening their relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The worship services at Kingswood are planned as a “Seeker Sensitive” service that is an integrated, cohesive whole that leads the worshipers to respond to the experience of God’s presence through praise and worship.

Worship services are a corporate activity in which the attendants participate. The congregation is involved! The concept of passively sitting and observing the leaders go through the motions of a performance-oriented service does not occur at Kingswood.

Worship services include the proclamation of the Word of God through preaching, music and praise, affirmations of faith, intercessory prayer, confession and pronouncement of a pardon confirming God’s grace-filled forgiveness and responsive commitments to Christian discipleship.

The leadership involved in the planning and implementing of the Worship services are extremely diligent in their efforts to protect the integrity of the Worship experience. The Audio-Visual support staff contributes visual graphics that enhance the worship experience of the participants.



VISION 2020

Evangelism and Assimilation

Kingswood is a Church that understands the demographics and psychographics of our community. Our ministries are focused on these needs so that unchurched members of our community will be attracted to our church and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church members approach visitors or those new to the church with openness and acceptance. In planning church events, we include opportunities to welcome and befriend new people. When a new person comes to our worship service, their experience is a sense of being welcome.

We make it easy for new people to develop significant relationships with people in the church.

We work with new Christians to establish them in their faith. We mobilize and encourage the individuals in our church who have the gift of evangelism.

Our church identifies the needs in our community. Every outreach-oriented ministry or event has a specific ministry focus group which is being targeted. Our church responds to help those in need.

Our members have consistent contact with unchurched people. We help people discover their personal style of evangelism. We encourage people to identify the pre-Christians in their lives and to pray for the pre-Christians in their spheres of influence.

We are “seeker sensitive” in that we are aware of how the church is perceived by unchurched people. We find new ways of adjusting the presentation of the gospel so they will be drawn in by the good news.

We recommend our community life center become a central hub in the community where social services events and other connectional activities are held daily as a witness to the unchurched.



VISION 2020

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry is an integral part of Kingswood. Adults of all ages and stages are involved in helping our children begin their lifelong journey with Christ. All of our activities from Sunday School to mid-week activities focus on learning that God loves you- no matter what!

We believe children should be nurtured in Christ's love from infancy. Our programs teach children that church is a safe and inviting place where they are loved and cared for.

As children journey through the Children's Ministry department they learn Biblical truths that they can lean on for the rest of their lives. We also teach children the importance of missions from a young age. Mission activities are an integral part of our ministry to teach children that Christianity is about giving of ourselves and sharing with others as much as it is about a personal relationship with Christ. Mission trips and activities play an ever-present and important role in the department.



VISION 2020

The Kingwood School

Through the School, Kingswood extends its mission to children, ages two – five. We understand the early years of a child's life are a most critical time for learning and developing.

The School joins with the parents in providing a firm foundation for their children's lives. The School provides an encouraging environment in which children grow intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.

Since its inception in September 1993, over 2000 students have attended the School. Current enrollment is over 200 students each year, with over 100 more on a waiting list.

In the summer of 2006, the School Board was successful in obtaining a grant of \$150,000 from the Forrest C. Lattner Foundation for making renovations and modifications to our facility to serve children.

We hope and expect other grants and fundraising to support this ministry.

Our School enjoys a very positive reputation that positions us ahead of others in the Community and is considered one our most powerful and influential witnessing ministries at Kingswood.

The Vision 2020 Committee recommends the Church Council explore ways of joining hands with the School to promote and expand this ministry.



VISION 2020

Youth Ministry

The Kingswood Student Ministry exists to make life-long disciples of Jesus who deeply love God and all people.

Our youth ministry is a group of teenagers who come together to enjoy life together. We come together to laugh, love, learn, play, sometimes cry, and always be there for each other.

All of our events, programs, and retreats are staffed with caring adults who understand boundaries and safety issues specific to adolescence. Often school and sometimes even the home can be a difficult environment for teenagers. Kingswood provides a safe, loving, healthy environment in our community. Our youth can expect to be loved and encouraged by our adults and other students.

Everything we do is geared towards inviting our students to trust Jesus with every part of their lives. However, we don't try to "talk people into" following Jesus. We respect each student wherever they may be in their journey. Every student is welcomed and respected regardless of their willingness or ability to believe in God, the Bible, or Jesus. We simply want to make our way of life and our beliefs about God available by what we teach and attractive by the way we live.

We believe God inspired the authors of the Bible by his Spirit to speak to all generations of believers. God calls us to immerse ourselves in this authoritative narrative individually and communally to faithfully interpret and live out that story today as we are led by the Spirit of God.

We believe teenagers can learn to read and interpret the Scriptures faithfully. We meet each student where they are and help them grow in their understanding of the Scriptures. Our youth are encouraged to discover their gifts and talents and use them to change the world, starting right where they are. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves.



VISION 2020

Young Adults Ministry

Kingswood has an active, thriving ministry for young adults. This includes individual programs for those of college-age, people in their 20's and those in their 30's.

Programs include a large selection of small groups that meet at a variety of different times; some meet on Sundays during the traditional Sunday school hour, others meet after hours both in the Community Life Center and offsite.

Kingswood sponsors specialized events and trips for young adults including mission trips, ski trips, and other getaways.

We also sponsor basketball and volley ball teams that compete with others within the community.

We offer regularly scheduled and well attended single gatherings; bible studies and other topical classes of interest; mentoring programs that match Kingswood seniors with those in the beginning years of their careers; programs for young couples and young families; mentoring programs that match Kingswood Young adults with youth and children in all our ministries.



VISION 2020

Women's Ministry

We encourage the women of Kingswood UMC and the women of our community in their walk with Christ Jesus by providing opportunities for learning, fellowship and service. We are seen as godly women, and win others for Christ not by our words but through our behavior, purity and reverence.

We have a very large, active and multi-generational group of ladies involved in our ministry. We organize many events that work to encourage our ladies to study God's word, form lasting and close relationships with God and each other and to serve those in need both inside our church and in the community. All our events are held to meet at least one of the goals mentioned above.

Some examples of these events are our prayer group which meets regularly to pray for those with needs and to pray daily for the needs of our church.

Other examples are our annual retreat, weekly Bible studies, small groups, mentoring program and our outreach to the preschool teachers and families.

We also work closely with the Evangelism committee to welcome all ladies who visit our church and then work with the Assimilation Committee to help new members get connected with our Women's Ministry.



VISION 2020

Men's Ministry

The Men's ministry at Kingswood is committed to Jesus Christ and His church. Many families in our church have been impacted by the centrality of Christ in the lives of our men and through their relationships with others.

We encourage men to participate in daily Bible study, prayer and witnessing with a Christ-like lifestyle in their daily work and in personal contacts through word and actions. We work as a team to provide our Church family, especially our elderly members, with acts of caring and service.

Our Men's group has a regular monthly breakfast meeting for fellowship and spiritual nourishment. We often have guest inspirational speakers or stimulating conversation regarding our mission and teaching one another through our spiritual, personal, and professional experiences.

A major area of ministry emphasis for our Men is the support of the various Habitat for Humanity projects under construction in our area. We provide drivers to help transport family members of prisoners for visitation and we provide Bibles and study materials to men in prison.

Bible study groups meet weekly in the homes of Kingswood men and additional opportunities for study are offered regularly.

Our UMM chapter is comprised of any and all men who share our vision for ministry and are dedicated to the fulfillment of the imperative given to us by Jesus which is known as the "Great Commission".

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



VISION 2020

Family Ministry

Kingswood has a holistic approach to Family Ministries that nurtures the whole family and covers the needs of our multigenerational congregation. We nurture the family by supporting our congregation with issues like marriage, parenting, divorce, grand parenting, etc...

The people of this congregation feel that they are part of a family and those visiting recognize this as well. We partner with the parents of our congregation and community to help children develop spiritually and grow into faithful adults

Our parents understand their role as the spiritual leaders for their children and our ministry offers a community that nurtures, supports and guides them in their spiritual walk with their children.

Parents are involved in the programs with their children and learn along with them. We are a Church family that provides a nurturing community of love and support for both parents and children by modeling Christian faith through the example of our lives and we surround the family with love and support.

Our Family Ministry Coordinator works closely and shares resources with all areas of the church that touch the lives of our children.

Family Ministries holds events to foster the relationships within the family, to help parents understand their role as spiritual leaders for their children, and to support and nurture the family. All of our events meet at least one of the goals mentioned above. Some examples are parenting classes, small groups, family mentoring, and seminars to address issues that affect the family.



VISION 2020

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer ministry at Kingswood is one of the most important ministry priorities of our Church. Prayer is understood as communication with God, both individually as a child of God and corporately as a family of Believers.

The Congregation's confident faith and involvement with the Prayer ministry is one of the most powerful differentiating factors for Kingswood.

1Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Based on the New Testament principle that the Church is the Body of Christ, our membership understands the need to dedicate time everyday for a Devotion that includes Prayers of Confession, Intercession, Petition, Praise, Thanksgiving acknowledging God's grace, His forgiveness and eternal love. How to pray is a question that is answered with regular Bible based studies and training classes.

Our Internet website connects our Church prayer teams with the community making us available for prayer requests of people who need assurance of a restored relationship with God, peace of mind and comfort when facing some of the difficult and stressful struggles of everyday life.

We help people know that God cares for them personally and that He desires a personal relationship with them.

Our Prayer ministry is a powerful outreach to the community. We recommend the establishment of a position of Prayer Coordinator with responsibility for the development of Prayer Teams, Prayer Partners, Prayer request chains, and Guided Prayers in our worship services.



VISION 2020

Missions

Kingswood continues to increase its support of missions at a local, national and global level recognizing that we are called to be in mission to the world. This support includes monetary funding, donations of material goods as well as time and service of all Kingswood members and friends.

Though a number of smaller projects exist – some sponsored by various groups within the church – the mission committee annually helps Kingswood identify through prayer and discussion one major issue/need to focus our primary attention on in a variety of different ways so that as many people can be involved as possible. Our approach includes both acts of compassion (charitable outreach) and acts of justice (seeking to address the root of the problem.)

Our Congregation is actively involved in a number of ministry projects that are born from an inherent desire to respond to the human needs of our community.

Some of the projects include refugee resettlement, assisting the homeless with transitional housing, undocumented illegal immigration issues, participation in an affordable home building and ownership program, an active “clothes closet” and “food pantry” ministry, programs for medical care, foster care, overcoming illiteracy, language training, and other programs addressing the social concerns of our time.

We recommend tithing of all Church funds received for our mission work and offer the opportunity for additional contributions from individuals who wish to support our various mission efforts.



VISION 2020

Habitat for Humanity Housing

Kingswood is known for its well balanced mission portfolio with outreach programs that offer positive impact to the local community, the southeastern US region, the remainder of the US and to those in need in other countries. One of our local missions is Habitat for Humanity. Kingswood offers various opportunities for those interested in helping with the Habitat ministry.

Through Kingswood's Habitat Chapter, an active subcommittee of the Kingswood Missions Committee, we support the local Habitat Affiliate by providing supplemental volunteers throughout the year. This includes volunteers willing to work on Saturdays as well as a team of individuals that help during the workweek.

The people of Kingswood recognize that the Habitat program is an opportunity to minister to individuals, future home owner, their neighbors, volunteers, etc., that participate in the home building effort. While the positive impact this program has in providing home ownership opportunities to working families in local area cannot be understated, we also recognize that this mission gives us significant opportunities to touch the lives of all who participate in the program.

This ministry provides a time of spiritual growth for the Kingswood participants and to many other individuals that Kingswood membership come into contact with while on the build site.

Kingswood actively participates in the sponsorship of at least one house every year, supplying funding and volunteers for ¼ to ½ of a typical build.

The Kingswood Habitat subcommittee actively seeks out volunteers, tracks their availability, and matches them to supplemental needs of the local Habitat affiliate on a regular basis.



VISION 2020

Music, Drama and Arts Ministry

Kingswood music, drama and arts ministry is a powerful ministry that reaches out to our congregation and the community. The different areas of this ministry work together to draw people into our church from the community and offers non-threatening programs that allows seekers to get their first introduction to Kingswood.

Our music, drama and arts program is known throughout the community for its excellence and passionate celebration of God's glory. Those who participate in this ministry are excited about how they can use music, drama and art to reach people for Christ.

This ministry is multi-generational in how it seeks to include those from our congregation and the community. We offer various activities where anyone with the desire to be involved can do so. Some of these activities are our Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, John Wesley Choir, Little Angels, youth drama and music team, theatre group, music and arts camp and The Kings Men coral group.



VISION 2020

The Community Life Center

As we move into the twenty first century, our congregation must be aware of the fact that the traditional evangelistic outreach methods of our earlier years as a Church are not as effective as they once were.

People drive by our church everyday and basically ignore us because they do not understand the relevance of church or what the Christian Community has to offer for their lives.

To most unchurched people, the Christian lifestyle consists of a series of “dos and don’ts” with no fun and something that does not relate to them or their family.

One of our responses to this perception is to make recreation and sports an important part of our ministry at Kingswood.

Our sports programs provide opportunities for all Believers to become meaningfully involved in the ministries of our Church. They have the opportunity to pray for our program, coach a team, referee a game, share a devotion, and develop relationships in order to open avenues of ministry to the people of our community who participate in our programs.

We recommend Kingswood develop a partnership with the Upward Sports program ministry to offer to our community the Upward Basketball, indoor Soccer, and Cheerleading programs in our gymnasium.

Upward is an evangelistic sports ministry specifically designed for kindergarten through sixth grade boys and girls that promotes salvation, character and self-esteem in every child.

We recommend consideration be given to a Director of Recreation staff position with responsibility for supervision of our sports programs ministry.



VISION 2020

The Community Life Center has provided an opportunity to expand our Vacation Bible School program to reach more children of the community.

We also have a recreational daycare camp for kids.

In addition to our children and youth oriented programs we have through the use of our Community Life Center expanded our SLAK (Seniors Live at Kingswood) ministry to include a host of programs that are exercise and fitness oriented activities like aerobics, walking clubs, badminton and volleyball games that are designed especially for seniors over 60.

The Community Life Center has given us the opportunity to expand our Fellowship Dinner program to a weekly event that includes guest speakers, musical groups, and movies for kids and other special features to attract families from the neighborhood.

We use our Community Life Center for craft shows, bridge and chess tournaments, book club discussion groups, and other special attractions focused on the community.

Other Community service opportunities for us as Christians include, Red Cross Blood Drive, Life Scan Services, Polling station, Disaster coordination site, all of which are directly connected to Kingswood.

We have a special needs “Kitchen ministry team” to help elderly people who need meals delivered to their homes.

The Kingswood congregation has recognized since the opening of its Community Life Center, the great gift God has blessed us with, and they have joined together to aggressively develop various outreach ministry programs to utilize our facility as a true “Community Life Center”.



VISION 2020

Health and Fitness Programs

The health and fitness program at Kingswood is a vital component of our ministry to the community. It is one of our most powerful mechanisms in reaching out to those in our community who are searching for God.

The activities that are offered through this program bring a large and diverse group of people into our building on a daily basis. Many of these people need to know God's love and we are able to share this with them in a non-threatening way through these activities.

Our health and fitness program reaches out to all in our congregation and the community with the multi-generational activities. Some of these include weight training, walking club, yoga and Pilates, personal training, year-round sports activities for all ages, summer sports camps, adult and children's basketball, senior chair-based exercise classes and daily group exercise classes.

We have joined with the preschool to provide sports activities to the students on a regular basis.

We have several paid staff positions to run this ministry and designated rooms for group and cardio exercise classes.

We also have ample equipment to meet the needs of all our activities and full time childcare for those attending our activities.

This ministry not only funds itself but it provides a means of resources for other ministries and missions that our church sponsors.



VISION 2020

Scouting Ministry

After 48 years of Scouting ministry, Kingswood's Scouting Ministry reflects the church's desire to "build bridges to the community," "give itself away," and "reach out to the least and the lost." In short, the leaders of the church embrace the idea that boys and girls can be trained and equipped to be mature and influential disciples of Jesus Christ through the vehicle of Scouting. The "Boy Scouts of America" offer great latitude to Kingswood to conduct Scouting in a way that is consistent with our mission to make disciples for Christ. Accordingly, our Boy Scouting ministry includes all four programs of the BSA and is committed to Scouting to the glory of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While this mission does not add additional requirements for earning merit badges or rank advancement, it does underscore a commitment to conduct Scouting with a biblical world and life view and our commitment to provide adult Christian role models as Scout leaders.

Kingswood commits to offering a faith based Scouting program for girls through "American Heritage Girls." American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered, non-profit scouting organization, offering a wholesome scouting program for girls, ages 5 to 18. AHG was founded with the love of God...through the love of families...for the love of children.

Kingswood provides meeting space for several Troop's of "Girl Scouts of the USA." Our Scouting ministry is not a "Covenant" program in the sense of requiring the boys and girls and/or their parents to be Christians. It is our hope and prayer that God would use Scouting to showcase Christ's love and grace to nonbelievers and that many people would become followers of Christ through Scouting at Kingswood.



VISION 2020

Stewardship

Our stewardship is obedience to God's Word and a witness to our faith. It encompasses the totality of our commitment in the pledge of our offerings, prayers, presence, gifts and service to support Kingswood's ministry for Christ in our community and beyond.

Our Prayers are meant to be our dialogue with God wherein we ask for strength, support, guidance and, as appropriate, healing - personally, corporately, for our brothers and sisters in Christ and for those who are brought to know Christ through our work at Kingswood. Individually and collectively we are seeking to be bold in our faith, strong in our convictions and wise in our decisions.

Our Presence is key to the strength of our church. Each of us has a contribution to make to God's work through Kingswood.

Our Gifts are the way we support God's work. Tithing, first fruits, sacrificial giving and cheerfulness are all terms that reflect the expectations of how we are to use our financial assets to enable Kingswood to fulfill its role of internal spiritual strengthening and outreach to care for, assist others, and bring people to know Christ.

Our Service is another important component of stewardship. Here's where we use our talents to help others in a personal way. It could be reaching out to a fellow church member, neighbor, or someone in another country who needs support. We are called to unselfishly contribute to the well being of others, not for personal gain, but because we can. The great thing about Service is that everyone has God given gifts that they can uniquely use to improve the lives of others – and themselves.

Stewardship is an ongoing year round discipline and is communicated to our congregation through personal testimonials, newsletter inserts, website information, focused sermons, small group meetings.



VISION 2020

The Natural Church Development System

The Council, at a special called meeting on June 4, 2007, approved the adoption of the “Natural Church Development” system.

This is recommended by the leadership of the UMC, North Georgia Conference, and is being used by a number of other Churches in the Atlanta-Roswell District.

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a long-term strategic process for progressively improving a church’s health. It is a process of continual improvement, not a quick-fix program.

NCD requires a long-term commitment that is intentional and consistent. There is significant documentation that proves that churches that have stayed with NCD for three or more years have had remarkable results.

We believe the NCD system will provide the Kingswood congregation with the tools to develop the growth principles given by God Himself to all of His creation.

To facilitate the implementation of NCD, the Vision 2020 Committee members have agreed to extend their service as needed to serve as the “Church Health Team”.

Preparations for launching the NCD were initiated with a Power Point presentation to the various Sunday School Classes on Sunday August 12, 2007.

The first step in implementing the NCD system is a survey of the active membership which will help determine our “minimum factor”. This information helps us focus our attention on those areas of our Church ministry where we need to begin applying the NCD principles.

