

# How to Enter Your Goals

- 1) Go to [umc.org/how-we-serve/vital-congregations](http://umc.org/how-we-serve/vital-congregations). Click “How to set goals. Read More”

The screenshot shows the 'Vital Congregations' page on the UMC website. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home / How We Serve / Growing Vital Churches / Vital Congregations'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Four Areas of Focus' including 'Growing Vital Churches' (highlighted), 'Developing Leaders', 'Advocating for Justice', 'Responding to Disaster', 'Volunteer Opportunities', and 'Giving Opportunities'. The main content area is titled 'Vital Congregations' and includes a mission statement: 'The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 22:36-40). This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.' Below this, it lists 'Vital congregations are:' and 'Vital congregations have:'. The 'Vital congregations are:' list includes: 'Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Gal.3:28)', 'Places where disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20)', and 'Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8, Luke 4:17-21)'. The 'Vital congregations have:' list includes: 'Inviting and inspiring worship', 'Engaged disciples in mission and outreach', 'Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership', 'Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership', 'Small Group ministries', and 'Strong children's & youth ministries'. At the bottom, there are three sections: 'Our Story' (Understanding our history is essential to our current faith and...), 'Vital Signs' (The VitalSigns Dashboard is a tool designed to help...), and 'Setting Goals' (How to set goals. [Read More](#)).

- 2) Click “Congregations: Click here to Set Your Goals”

The screenshot shows the 'Vital Congregations: Setting Goals' page on the UMC website. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home / How We Serve / Growing Vital Churches / Vital Congregations / Setting Goals'. The top navigation bar includes 'UMC.org', 'Directory', 'Hispanic UMC', 'Korean UMC', 'Find-A-Church', 'Ask a Question', 'Store', and 'English'. The main content area is titled 'Vital Congregations: Setting Goals' and includes a sub-section 'Setting Vital Congregation Goals' with a list of links: 'Congregations: [Click Here to Set Your Goals](#)', 'How to Enter Your Goals (PDF)', 'Goal Setting FAQs', and 'Cumulative Data by District and Conference (Log-in required)'. Below this is a section 'How to Set Your Goals' with a list of links: 'Metrics Prototype (PDF)', 'Minute Questions Page One (PDF)', 'Vital Congregation Planning Guide: A Strategic Plan for United Methodist Congregations (PDF)', 'Vital Congregation Planning Guide [Spanish] (PDF)', 'S.M.A.R.T. Goals for 2012 (Archived webinar)', 'Prayerfully consider where your congregation is today, view your church's demographics', and 'Review your congregation's story'. The left sidebar is similar to the previous screenshot, but 'Setting Goals' is highlighted under the 'Vital Congregations' section.

3) That brings up a new page that looks like this.

### VitalSigns Dashboard

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know that plans I have for you, says the Lord." A future with hope reminds us that God does have a vision and a purpose for The United Methodist Church. As we listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we embrace the Spirit's leading our denomination forward in casting visions for each congregation, district, conference and our denomination as a whole. Together, we are invited to set goals that will move us forward in our mission to "Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Spiritual goal setting is aligning our ministry with and for God's calling for the United Methodist Church. It is a unique opportunity for our churches to work with one another and for one another as we serve as one Church for the world.

Making disciples, growing vital congregations and transforming the world is part of a spiritual adventure that is empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit as churches engage in the means of grace. Spiritual goals are accomplished by connecting the means of grace with proven vital church practices such as planning, strategic direction, prioritization, clear focus and alignment.

Through prayer and discernment, every congregation is invited to set spiritual goals as a gift for God. Every congregation is invited to celebrate these goals and then strive to do all in their power to achieve these goals. Together, God will bless us and increase our numbers because of our faithfulness to God's call for our denomination.

Fill out your congregation's spiritual goals below and then print out the report. You can submit it to your district superintendent via email or vial regular mail. The goal and data of the goals will be recorded and submitted to your district, annual conference and also General Conference.

Search By Location

City:

State:

OR

Select By Conference

Conference:

District:

OR

Search By General Church Number

4) At the top of the page you'll find an explanation and instruction on setting goals.

UMC.orgDirectoryHispanic UMCKorean UMCFind-A-ChurchAsk a QuestionStoreEnglish

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

[Who We Are](#) [What We Believe](#) [How We Serve](#) [News & Media](#) [Resources](#)

[Home](#) / [How We Serve](#) / [Growing Vital Churches](#) / [Vital Congregations](#) / [Setting Goals](#) / [VitalSigns Dashboard](#)

### VitalSigns Dashboard

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know that plans I have for you, says the Lord." A future with hope reminds us that God does have a vision and a purpose for The United Methodist Church. As we listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we embrace the Spirit's leading our denomination forward in casting visions for each congregation, district, conference and our denomination as a whole. Together, we are invited to set goals that will move us forward in our mission to "Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Spiritual goal setting is aligning our ministry with and for God's calling for the United Methodist Church. It is a unique opportunity for our churches to work with one another and for one another as we serve as one Church for the world.

Making disciples, growing vital congregations and transforming the world is part of a spiritual adventure that is empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit as churches engage in the means of grace. Spiritual goals are accomplished by connecting the means of grace with proven vital church practices such as planning, strategic direction, prioritization, clear focus and alignment.

Through prayer and discernment, every congregation is invited to set spiritual goals as a gift for God. Every congregation is invited to celebrate these goals and then strive to do all in their power to achieve these goals. Together, God will bless us and increase our numbers because of our faithfulness to God's call for our denomination.

Fill out your congregation's spiritual goals below and then print out the report. You can submit it to your district superintendent via email or vial regular mail. The goal and data of the goals will be recorded and submitted to your district, annual conference and also General Conference.

- 5) Below the instructions are three boxes that allow you to search for your church by location, conference, or general church number.

Fill out your congregation's spiritual goals below and then print out the report. You can submit it to your district superintendent via email or vial regular mail. The goal and data of the goals will be recorded and submitted to your district, annual conference and also General Conference.

Search By Location

City:

State:

OR

Select By Conference

Conference:

District:

OR

Search By General Church Number

- 6) If you select a church by location or conference, you'll be asked to select your church from a list.

Fill out your congregation's spiritual goals below and then print out the report. You can submit it to your district superintendent via email or vial regular mail. The goal and data of the goals will be recorded and submitted to your district, annual conference and also General Conference.

Search By Location

City:

State:

OR

Select By Conference

Conference:

District:

OR

Search By General Church Number

Select Your Church From The List Below

- 7) That brings up several tables of information. The first shows historical data for your church on the five measures of vitality and includes boxes for entering your goals. For more information on the historical data and what to enter for your goals, head back to the starting goals page and click the link for the how-to-guide in Setting Vital Congregation Goals box.

Select Your Church From The List Below

Church: DUNEDIN FIRST GCNO: 356106 Charge: DUNEDIN FIRST  
 District: GULF CENTRAL Conference: FLORIDA  
 Data Year:

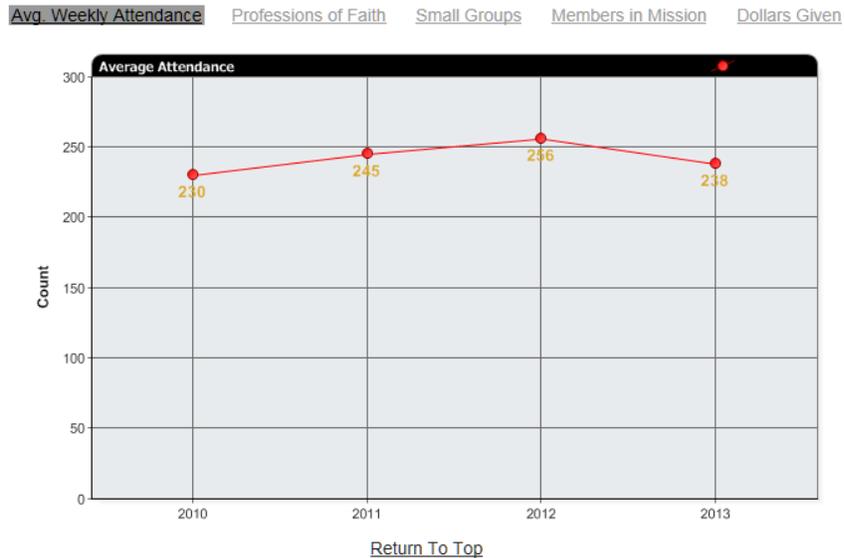
Historical Data and Goals

Please only enter whole numbers. (No decimals)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Avg. Weekly Attendance	230	245	256	238		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Professions of Faith	8	6	6	15		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Small Groups	4	8	11	14		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Members in Mission	22	23	0	0		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dollars Given to Mission	31964	38472	24874	28113		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

\* 2013 Statistics have not been verified.

8) You can also see your data graphed for each metric and the projections.



The historical data is based upon your congregation's year-end statistical reports as follows:

**Average Weekly Attendance:** Average attendance for all services held weekly worship services.

**Professions of Faith:** Number of persons received into professing membership by profession of faith (does not include transfers or persons received by faith restored).

**Small Groups:** Number of classes and groups. There may be other small groups not reported on this line that you want to include in this goal.

**Members in Mission:** Number of persons sent out on UMVIM and other mission teams. There are other forms of local, national, and international mission work not reported on this line that you want to include in this goal.

**Dollars Given to Mission:** Total giving to apportionments and all other reported benevolences to both United Methodist and non-United Methodist causes.

This data is intended to provide you with some very basic context to help in forming your goals. In some cases, however, the statistical reports may only capture some of the ways in which your church will be reaching your goals. For instance, "Members in Mission" only includes the number of persons participating in mission teams. You may have persons engaged in other types of mission you want to include in this goal. In the coming years, the statistical reports will be changing to allow you to fully and accurately report your progress on your goals.

- 9) To enter your data, simply click on each box and start typing. You can easily switch from one blank to the next by hitting the tab key, or clicking each box with your mouse.

Please only enter whole numbers. (No decimals)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<u>Avg. Weekly Attendance</u>	115	108	112	133		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Professions of Faith</u>	2	1	0	8		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Small Groups</u>	22	18	21	18		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Members in Mission</u>	6	12	15	5		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<u>Dollars Given to Mission</u>	36143	29990	35811	30458		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- 10) Once you've entered your goals, put in your first and last name and an email address to contact you. If you know your Interpreter password, you can also enter that to validate your goals.

Submitted By:

Comments:

[Printable Report](#)

Your First and Last Name      Your Email Address

(Please submit your goals prior to running this report)

- 11) Once your information is entered, your DS or conference staff will go in to review your goals and validate the entries. Once goals are validated, they are locked in and cannot be changed.