



### Report from the Transition Team to the Congregation - June 6, 2010

In February, many of us met together to explore the history of East Woods with Craig Williams at the event we called *Blast From the Past/Plan for the Future/Seeking our Next Pastor*. The information gathered at that event was to help us determine our particular strands of "DNA Code".

Every church has its own unique code that defines its identity and clarifies its focus. When we try to discover our code, we're moving forward by looking back. Knowing our code helps us make decisions that line up with who we are, instead of struggling against the grain. A church doesn't create its code, it discovers it.....it's already there.

Discovering our unique code has been the task of the Transition Team over the past few months. As we explored all of the information gathered at the February event, trying to identify the specific qualities that are at the core of East Woods' identity, the following three strands of DNA continually rose to the top. These are the qualities that seem to come naturally to us-things at which we are particularly gifted:

- ❖ *Perseverance*
- ❖ *Relationships*
- ❖ *Work and Service*

Discovering and clearly identifying our DNA will help us plan for our future, and also, lead us to the best possible match as we seek our next pastor.

Now, it's your turn again! The Transition Team wants to know.....have we gotten it right? Do these strands of DNA resonate with you? Have we captured the essence of East Woods? Is there anything we have missed? Please add your own thoughts to the chart below and join us for discussion on Sunday June 13, following worship. Thanks again for your input in this important process as we *Plan for the Future* and *Seek our Next Pastor!*

	Because we have been created and guided by God, we have been able to persevere through challenges and build relationships with one another, through our work together, so that we can serve others.		
<b>Our Code</b>	<b>Perseverance</b>	<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Work and Service</b>
<b>General Description</b>	<p>Steady and continued action or belief, usually over a long period and especially despite difficulties or setbacks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If something is important to us we see it all the way through.</li> <li>▪ We persist in pursuing our goals/visions and we don't give up.</li> <li>▪ We are committed.</li> <li>▪ We're good at meeting challenges head-on.</li> <li>▪ We overcome adversity.</li> </ul>	<p>The connection between two or more people or groups and their involvement with one another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We're a casual and informal congregation.</li> <li>▪ We're generous in caring for each other.</li> <li>▪ We conduct a lot of our relationships through our work and service. (yard work, prayer shawls, building the building and, in the old days, setting up and taking down for worship)</li> </ul>	<p>To provide a person, community, or organization with something that it needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We give generously and joyfully of our time and talent.</li> <li>▪ We give generously of our resources, over and above when a need arises. (Thanksgiving Baskets, Cardiac Resuscitator, etc.)</li> <li>▪ We notice and assist with practical tasks that need to be done.</li> <li>▪ We feel a call from God to the ministries or people we serve.</li> <li>▪ We receive satisfaction through quietly serving others.</li> </ul>
<b>Images</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grove of Douglas Fir Trees (strong, storm resistant, growing, bearing fruit)</li> <li>▪ Mountain Climbing/Hiking (making a plan, equipping, adapting, staying focused on the goal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Body of Christ (each with gifts that are interconnected and interdependent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Martha from Luke 10 (quietly working hard behind the scenes, serving practical needs)</li> </ul>
<b>Biblical Connection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The wandering in the wilderness - Exodus 12-19</li> <li>▪ Arriving in the Promised Land - Joshua 1-3</li> <li>▪ The Apostle Paul - 2Corinthians 4:7-12; 11:21b-33</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Romans 12</li> <li>▪ Galatians 5:13-6:7</li> <li>▪ Ephesians 4</li> <li>▪ Colossians 3:1-17</li> <li>▪ 2 Peter 1:3-11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ John 21:15-19</li> <li>▪ Matthew 25:31-46</li> <li>▪ James 1:22-27; 2:14-26</li> <li>▪ 2 Corinthians 8:1-15</li> </ul>
<b>Our History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Journey to Chartering: 1989-1999</li> <li>▪ Transition between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastors</li> <li>▪ Loss of other important leaders</li> <li>▪ Journey to Building: 1999-2009</li> <li>▪ Hardships/discouragement</li> <li>▪ We overcame adversity and beat the odds to succeed as a New Church Development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tradition of praying for one another in worship and through prayer chain</li> <li>▪ Work parties</li> <li>▪ Mariners</li> <li>▪ Dinners of 8</li> <li>▪ Men's and women's groups and retreats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Giving Tree</li> <li>▪ Thanksgiving Baskets</li> <li>▪ Share House</li> <li>▪ Lighthouse Ministries</li> <li>▪ Donation of time/talents for unexpected immediate needs</li> <li>▪ Work parties related to our building and grounds</li> <li>▪ Prayer Shawls</li> <li>▪ City Camp</li> </ul>

## Observations

While analyzing the information from the February event to identify East Woods' Code, the Transition Team had in-depth discussions about how these particular strands of DNA might be used advantageously to lead us into the future. The three observations outlined below might be a catalyst for discussion and planning for our future.

1. The comparison of the developmental stages of human growth to the growth of East Woods was a key element discussed at the *Blast from the Past* event. Currently, we seem to be a church in the adolescent stage of development, yet, verging on the brink of adulthood. Much of our journey has been moving from a temporary status to a much more established, grounded place. Just as young adults are ready to leave the nest, East Woods seems to be ready to take off. What does God have in store for East Woods that will require us to use our particular strengths.....our DNA code? Where is God leading us that will require our vision and endurance?
2. Building relationships with each other through prayer, work and service is one of our strengths. Up to this point, relationship building has been primarily internal. Our journey has almost necessitated this internal focus as we established ourselves as a church and built our permanent home. Is it time to expand on relationships beyond our own walls? Are there unmet opportunities in our community that God is calling us to explore? Our building is a tool for ministry. How might God be leading us to use this tool?
3. Our last observation relates to our relationship with our next pastor. Our journey through the developmental stages of becoming an established congregation with our own building shaped us to be a pastor-led church. Now that those specific goals have been accomplished, our relationship with our next pastor might be a bit different. At this developmental stage of verging on adulthood, we may be ready to evolve from a pastor-led relationship to a more collaborative relationship with our pastor-a relationship that requires us to be full partners in ministry as we plan and move through our future together.

Submitted by the Transition Team

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Your comments and suggestions: