Strategically Planning to Provide a Ministry to Young People

Jerry DeGroot, Principal/CEO
Unity Christian High School
In cooperation with the Unity Christian Board of Trustees
and VanLunen Faculty

**Direction:**

From 2000 – 2014 Unity Christian was focused on one large goal – Provide a new facility for the high school. Since 2000 the Unity Christian community has provided $30+ million towards the development of a 130-acre piece of property. With the completion of this project in 2015 and only $500,000 short of completely being debt free it is time to focus on the future of Christian education at Unity.

**Path:**

Understanding that we serve a broad community with a wide variety of thoughts and ideas the first task was to review Unity's overall plan for ministry to assure that we were addressing the needs of our students and community accurately. We then addressed those items we felt Unity is doing well, and items that needed to be improved or considered. Next, we considered all the areas Unity supports and reviewed how we were addressing these areas as an organization. We then completed an organizational flow chart identifying all individuals who were leaders in carrying out an ongoing strategic plan. At this point our path was decided and we started to build our strategic plan.

**Carrying out our Mission:**

After much prayer and discussion regarding the future of Unity Christian we were able to properly identify how we would address our needs in a formal plan. From our work we established six "Pillars" we felt would provide the basis for our plan with all other items we would address as a school found in each of these "Pillars". The Unity Christian Strategic Plan focuses on the following: 1) Enrollment/Admissions 2) Faculty and Staff 3) Curriculum/Programs 4) Student Spiritual Development 5) Finance and Development 6) Facilities and Transportation. These areas will have a variety of initiatives that we are completing with the goal of identifying a timetable for each initiative.

**What has been accomplished:**

Reviewing organizational structures, understanding a clear future, identifying individuals involved, and setting a plan to achieve our mission was a transforming experience. As the Head of School working with the board on our strategic plan has provided a new sense of focus and direction. We feel we have a plan for the future and that we can intentionally address items that will directly accomplish our goals of developing followers of Jesus.