



**WHITNEY UMC IS A SCHOOL OF LOVE WHERE WE LEARN TO LOVE GOD,  
ONE ANOTHER, OURSELVES AND CREATION AS JESUS TEACHES.**

### **Update on our School of Love vision:**

No doubt you have noticed the tremendous changes that Becky Platt and Coral Swofford have spearheaded on our website at [WhitneyUMC.org](http://WhitneyUMC.org). (Visit it as often as you can, to help search engines “learn” what a great site it is!)

One thing you will find there is a beautiful page explaining the *School of Love* vision that has been driving our thoughts and prayers since early in 2020, before the pandemic.

As we all know, the old way of doing church in America has been dying a slow death over the last generation or so. As our Bishop Elaine Stanovsky said in response to the constrictions imposed by Covid, in her introduction to *Reimagining Life Together* (June 2, 2020):

The task we have is to reimagine church – and all we are and do – so that we can be what God dreams us to be. After all, church isn’t a building; it isn’t doors or a steeple. Church is the people in ministry and service. If we can’t do this ministry in the ways we have in the past, we will find new ways to do it. We will find a way. Our imaginations can show us what is possible.

As Reverend Christina explained at length in her February 10, 2021 email to the congregation, inspired by the *School of Love* vision in our own reimagining of church, our Whitney Council and all our volunteer leaders have been hard at work striving to learn new ways to fulfill our United Methodist mission: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*, here in our local mission field, with our *focus on discipling, serving and providing resources to children and families*.

This breath of God’s Love has inspired work on a good number of actions in response. Here are a few:

- You will have noticed the use of “school of love” language in sermons, children’s moments, Bible study classes, and the liturgy since early February of 2020.
- Now we have the new and improved website to project this vision to “the world.”
- By a clear democratic vote of our congregation completed on March 18, 2020 and certified by the Council at its April 11 meeting, Whitney has chosen the logo in the header above to use in all its outward facing initiatives to promote our activities undertaken to live into our vision and mission, including things like letterhead, flyers, posters, as well as the website and our social media pages.
- The Trustees and Finance ministry have worked together to arrange for a new electronic marquis that will inform the surrounding community of our school of love vision and the many activities we undertake in the spirit of Christ’s love. In just a couple of months this should change our appearance and message to our neighbors!
- We are pondering and planning many more initiatives, in the spirit of “workshops” to be undertaken once it is determined that conditions us to come back together in-person, at our beloved church building and its grounds!

In Christ’s Love,

The Whitney Council