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# Light of Christ Community Garden

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## *LOC Community Garden Project Objectives*

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

LOCCG - 003

RELEASE/REVISION:

New

RELEASE/REVISION DATE:

25 March 2011

CONTENT OWNER:

**Jim and Donna Cox**

Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Care Ministry

# Document Information

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Version	Date	Description
1.0	25 March 2011	Initial release

**Credits:** Project Management techniques and methodologies are based on training received from The Boeing Company with documentation templates based on Macroscopic®, an integrated suite of business and IT methods developed by the Fujitsu Corporation.

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## **Project Objectives**

### **Develop Property**

The property that was purchased to extend the mission of the Light of Christ Church has been undeveloped for many years. For a variety of reasons we have been unable to continue with our original building plans for the property. However, we should continue to seek ways to be constructive with God's gift of property and to meet the mission of the church.

### **Christian Mission**

As Christians we are to use and develop the various gifts and talents God has given us personally as individuals and together as a congregation. Specifically, the mission of the Light of Christ Church is: "To reach out with God's Grace to help people know, trust and share God's purpose in their life."

We have an opportunity to participate in our mission by helping our community to know God's purpose by trusting and helping others to work together for a common good. This can help establish the church as a leader and a focus for good in our community; building our reputation.

This mission opportunity presents a way to focus the energy of the congregation on a common goal, becoming more visible in our community and demonstrating involvement in our faith.

### **Take Care of Those in Need**

One of the precepts of our Christian Faith is to take care of those in need. We have developed an effective care ministry within the Light of Christ Church, praying for those in need, feeding the hungry, visiting the lonely and providing the comfort and hope of our Christian faith. More is required.

The number of needful persons in our community has increased due in part to the recent economic challenges in the United States and political events in other parts of the world. Various groups within our community have been providing support, but more help is needed with the increase of the local senior citizen and immigrant populations, the unemployed and

the working poor. This need requires us to increase our efforts however we can.

### **Project Description - Light of Christ Community Garden Project**

To meet the objectives stated above, it is proposed that a community garden be built on a portion of the undeveloped property of the Light of Christ Church. The Light of Christ Community Garden Project would be in association with the Federal Way Community Gardens Foundation.

The community garden project would be sponsored and led by the congregation of Light of Christ Lutheran Church, but would also involve other community organizations. As a community project a majority of contributions should come from outside the LOC Congregation. It is recommended that as a goal, no more than 15% of the total cost of the community garden should be borne by the Light of Christ Church or its members.

Outside of the existing mortgage payment on the land and the additional costs of electricity, water and perhaps an increase of liability insurance costs, there would be no long term monetary commitment or debt to the Light of Christ Church. All funds are to be received or firmly pledged before embarking on a particular phase of garden construction.

The garden will be designed so that it may be enjoyed by all. Walkways will be hard packed, level and of sufficient width to allow for wheel chairs and walkers. Several vegetable and flower beds will be raised so that they are more easily accessible without severe bending or stooping.

Design accommodations will also be made to encourage the very young to participate in the planting, weeding and harvesting. In addition to being visually pleasing, the design will include elements to stimulate the other senses such as, such as fragrant flowers and a flowing fountain.

It is proposed that a community garden would be built within a one year period and be ready for planting by April 1, 2012. The project would entail building, planting, harvesting and distributing at least 7,000 lbs of organic fruits and vegetables to those in need within our community.

## How Objectives Support Church Mission

The process of developing, building and maintaining a Community Garden, along with the distribution to those in need is in direct support of our church's role in the community and mission field. As a congregation we need to demonstrate our values through actions as well as words. Working together within and outside the Light of Christ Church can strengthen and grow the congregation through the example of Christian principles and actions.

The community garden is not a permanent commitment such as a building, etc. It will improve the look of the property and help our church become a good neighbor by improving the look of our neighborhood.

A community garden project is reasonable and within the means of the congregation to support. It is also flexible to allow further development of the property when this becomes a viable option

The garden would become a major focus of our congregation. It can help break down barriers, increase communication and cooperation within the congregation; focus on others and away from self. Through the building project a sense of accomplishment and gratitude can be achieved through helping others.