

These five banners were made by the Creekside Church of the Brethren to accompany their five-week sermon series on the proposed denominational Vision Statement.



Week 1
"In Word Indeed"



Week 2
"Sweet Surrender"



Week 3
"Circles of Caring"



Week 4
"Loving What God Loves"



Week 5
"R U a Visionary?"

Church of the Brethren Vision Statement Banner designs and comments

Vision Statement

Through Scripture, Jesus calls us to
live as courageous disciples by word and action:
To surrender ourselves to God,
To embrace one another,
To express God's love for all creation.

This set of five banners was created to reflect on each of the four clauses of the vision Statement, and the fifth banner is a visual summary of the previous designs. The banners are intended to be used in sequence, but the colors also lend themselves to seasons (Advent/Lent, Ordinary Time, Easter or Christmas) of the Christian year.

General Comments: Each banner is 30" wide at the top and 72" to the longest point at the bottom. All were pieced, quilted, and bound. The banners were designed by Rosanna Eller McFadden. The set on display were pieced by Jean Mann Graber of Creekside Church of the Brethren, and Margaret Weybright, of Bethany Church of the Brethren, Sandy Bartoe, West Goshen Church of the Brethren. Ron Nicodemus of the Vision Interpretation Committee was invaluable in coordinating the construction of the banners.

Each of the banners is grounded in an open Bible. Our vision comes from the words of Scripture; that's where our directive for Christian living begins. Each of the first four banners is based on a simple shape and a limited color range which represents an aspect of the Vision Statement: #1 Discipleship (blue), #2 Surrender (purple), #3 Embracing one another (gold), #4 Love for Creation (green). Banner #5 combines colors and shapes from all of the previous banners. It would be possible to use Banner #5 alone to represent the complete Vision Statement.

Banner by Banner notes:

Banner 1: Discipleship

This banner represents how our lives are shaped and changed by the Bible, at the bottom of the banner in parchment fabric bound in dark brown--and by the Holy Spirit, across the top of the banner in white. The two have similar shapes, but the Bible is bound, while the Spirit extends (at least by visual implication) beyond the boundaries. As followers of Jesus, we need the words of the Bible and the context and discipline which come from careful reading, discussion, and study of those words. We also need the Holy Spirit to move us beyond our own interpretations and to guide our understanding and how we are inspired to share that with others.

The blue tones of this banner and theme of the Holy Spirit would be appropriate for the season of Epiphany (Jesus' baptism and ministry) and for baptism.

Banner 2: Surrender

I chose gradually widening horizontal blocks of color to represent the peace which comes with surrender. The color graduates from red-purple to blue-purple. The fabrics at the top had more pattern and movement than the deeper tones at the bottom, to show how our connection with God can help us find peace in the midst of chaos.

The themes of surrender, confession, and stillness and the shades of purple would be appropriate for seasons of Advent or Lent.

Banner 3: Embracing one another

The concentric circles of this banner represent God's loving embrace of all people, as well as the way in which God's glory shines through the diversity of the human family. I used shades of gold to suggest light, but also to suggest a diversity of ethnicity and race. These circular forms are difficult to piece together: perhaps there's a lesson there, too, for those who face the challenges of ministering to diverse groups of people.

The gold tones of this banner and themes of light and glory would be appropriate for Easter or Christmas.

Banner 4: Love for Creation

The vertical blocks of fabric suggest energy and growth. I used shades of green with leaf patterns, a grape print, and purple accents to more specifically represent flourishing and fruitfulness. These blocks, too, widen out from a mid-point to represent a broadening of our outreach and understanding.

The shades of green and themes growth and expanding awareness would be appropriate for Ordinary Time.

Banner 5: Putting it all together

The basic geometric shapes of horizontal, circular, and vertical are combined in this banner in the form of a Celtic cross: Jesus emerging from the center of creation. These elements and colors are taken from the previous banners—the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, the gold of God's glory, the purple of surrender and the green of creation. Giving structure and shape to it all is a cross, the most recognized symbol of Christ and Christianity. The purples and greens are pieced together almost like a stained glass window. As in each of the other banners, this holistic vision comes out of the Bible.

This banner could be used during any season of the Christian year, or as a singular banner for the Vision Statement. It would also be appropriate for a theme of the Trinity, of community, or of integration.