

Dear Beloved of Atlanta Unity,

I have good news to share with you! We have recently received our construction permit from Gwinnet County, we have a great construction firm, Leapley Construction, and work is already underway on our new church home in Royal Peachtree Corners! We held a marvelous *Imagine!* Capital Campaign, we have secured a construction loan, and everything looks on target for an on time completion and October move in!

I am encouraging everyone to stay prayed up through the summer months and early fall. We are going to continue having great church programs right where we are, and we are gearing up for some even better programs as we move forward. Everyone I have spoken with from new members, to longtime members, to Board, staff and volunteers, is excited and preparing for the great change.

I want to thank all of you for your love, your prayers, your affirmations, your **imagination**, and your financial support. This move onward and upward would not be possible without all of us pulling together. All of us have responded beautifully to the challenge to not only continue our regular tithes and offerings, but to dig deeper for the new building. This response is most gratifying. Thank you again on behalf of all of us.

One of the things that happened in the past year as we began planning, visualizing and fundraising for our new home is that we realized we also need to have an updated vision of who we are as Atlanta Unity. Together we created that vision. Let me remind you here of that new vision. You will see the points in a concise form below. You may remember that when I first wrote the vision it was quite lengthy. After your input I consolidated items and released items that weren't totally focused. What you will see is briefer and more simplified. This is the new, better, more wonderful version of Atlanta Unity for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. God is blessing us mightily!

Richest blessings and faith-filled imagination!

Rev. John

The Purpose of Atlanta Unity: *We transform the world by calling forth, inspiring and equipping all people to remember and express their indwelling divinity.*

1. All are the light of God.
2. We have a clear, concise *agreed-upon* purpose. We are not about the business of salvation but personal transformation.
3. Our community's primary tasks are to A. assist people in finding their purpose; B. Equip people to follow their purpose; and C. Send them forth to accomplish their purpose.

4. Our community goes deeper than just being a friendly, welcoming place. We encourage deep spiritual relationships with one another.
5. WE encourage the development of “affinity” groups. We call equip leaders. We gather people of like minds to pursue their interests. The people in these groups minister to one another. Everyone in our community is seen as a lay minister.
6. We serve these in our congregation and at the same time, we reached out to find spiritual seekers who do not have a particular religious affiliation.
7. Church facilities are modern, technologically advanced and wired, with “intimate” conversation areas throughout. We have ample, beautifully appointed bathrooms. We have a commercial kitchen. We have room for exercise, dances and games. We love where we are but are not bound to a location or facility. We are grounded in God and go where God leads.
8. We make a concerted effort to support our younger adults, for they are our future.
9. The Board’s primary focus is to ensure that the activities support the purpose statement of the church. Each Board member is an ambassador who takes the message to the community.
10. We seek to help all find their calling and equip them. To that end, administration is done by those who have a calling for this kind of work and see it as their ministry.
11. We have a strong emphasis in reaching out into the community and the world. We share with others the message that has transformed our lives. We do not proselytize in the traditional sense, but we are willing to take the message to our work place and community.
12. The community is willing to adapt and transform itself to meet the ever-changing needs of the world. We are flexible, progressive and forward-moving.
13. We follow the teachings and example of Jesus by loving unconditionally, dropping our judgments and forgiving freely.
14. We follow the principles of “Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love”. Our communication with one another is direct and loving. We avoid triangulation.
15. And the greatest of these is love. Without it, we are nothing. With it, all things are possible.