

The How

The “How” of Latah Valley will essentially plot out and plan the possible ways that we might implement the congregation’s Mission Statement (otherwise known as *The Seven L’s*). The statement breaks down as follows:

1. **Latah Lives** the fullest life of community that God intends us to live, according to the witness of Holy Scripture.
2. **Latah Listens** to the stories of people near and far and especially to God’s Story through them.
3. **Latah Lingers** in the places where, and in the moments when, people need to hear about the love of God in Jesus Christ.
4. **Latah Laughs** at the serious business of the world, knowing that even the best methods of human beings won’t make things perfect.
5. **Latah Learns** from those humble people who are willing to admit that they don’t always know for sure.
6. **Latah Loves** by the power of the Spirit of Christ, who trains us in forgiveness, reconciliation and compassion.
7. **Latah Longs** for the coming kingdom of the risen Christ where there will be no church, no temple, no suffering, no sighing and no death... *but the Lord God will be their light.*

Given these descriptive components, we begin to make them real through a weekly celebration of worship. Worship in the morning or in the early evening on Sunday—combined with a bi-weekly participation in a small “Threshold Group”—will offer the basic spiritual sustenance and everything we need to foster community.

In addition, it is our intention to initiate a variety of forums for reading poetry, listening to music and creating other works of art which glorify God. These forums will happen both at the Latah Valley site as well as other public venues. In order to “Laugh” and to “Learn,” Latah Valley will cultivate connections at schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters, prisons, detention centers and country clubs. Our focus in these settings will be on healing relationships and we will do this by moments of communal contemplation and personal renewal. In the same way Latah Valley will embody “Love” as we facilitate dialogue between people groups and individuals who have felt wronged by one another. Finally, the longing of Latah Valley allows for our continuing angst. We will be open to our hearts being broken again and again because we believe ultimately that a more transcendent healing awaits on the other side of every program the church strives to offer.

For “The How” to be fully carried out, of course, will require a vast number of gifted servant-leaders. We are eager to receive and to train anyone whom God sends in our direction. At the same time, we do have our antennae out for those whom the apostle Paul addressed as “the foolish... the weak... what is low and despised...” (1 Corinthians 1:27—28).