

# TASTE & SEE: DISCERNING A COLLECTIVE CALL TO FAITH & ACTION



“He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

— Micah 6:8

**June 18, 2016**

The School of Theology  
Contextual Education Program  
Missional Engagement Initiative (MEI)  
Cravens Hall, Sewanee, TN

This training was made possible in large part  
By funds from the Roanridge Trust,  
Administered through the Mission Department  
of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS).

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

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We welcome your suggestions for improving this guide further for future trainings. We also welcome you to use it and adapt it for your own trainings, subject to the restrictions below. This workshop guide has been developed over the course of many trainings by Liz Pallatto, Joy Cushman, Jake Waxman, Devon Anderson, Rachel Anderson, Adam Yalowitz, Kate Hilton, Lenore Palladino, New Organizing Institute staff, MoveOn Organizers, Center for Community Change staff, Jose Luis Morantes, Carlos Saavedra, Sean Thomas-Breitfeld, Shuya Ohno, Petra Falcon, Michele Rudy, Hope Wood, Josh Daneshforooz, Kendyll Hillegas, Duncan Hilton, Ella Auchincloss, Emily Jendzejec, Isaac Martinez, Alexia Salvetierra, Stephanie Spellers, the Direct Action & Research Training Center (DART), the *Be the Change Alabama* Mission Enterprise Zone leadership team, and the 22 seminarians who have helped to shape this work through taking the *Transforming Congregations & Communities* course at The School of Theology (MNST 562), and many others.

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## About the Missional Engagement Initiative (MEI)

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*Effectively increasing parishes' capacity  
for transformational lay leadership and mission development*

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### MEI's Mission

The Missional Engagement Initiative (MEI) is a collaborative partnership between the School of Theology contextual education program, clergy, lay leaders, and their communities to develop spiritual leaders for God's dream of a just and reconciled creation. MEI strives to enable us all to live more fully into our baptismal covenant. Together, we are building bridges between the seminary and the world in which we serve in order to better facilitate the empowerment of parishes and their communities.

### Call to Action

Every generation has **the opportunity and the responsibility to tell the story of Jesus** in their neighborhoods and communities. We have chosen to act together in hope, believing that the story we tell and witness to in our churches today can be a powerful, relevant reflection of Christ. In the words of Brian McLaren, we have chosen to "grow communities where you do not simply learn or learn about but where you **learn to live in the way of love.**"<sup>1</sup> Every parish that participates with MEI's training program will **decide for themselves on a local Call to Action**; an urgent need in their community that demands their participation. Their unique 'missional campaign' will be an expression of that need and a reflection of Christ to the surrounding community.

### Teams, Leaders, & Action

While Calls to Action vary greatly from parish to parish, we find that there is a common root and motivation for many parishes in their desire to work with MEI – a **need to put our faith into action** in our communities of worship.

### The Challenge

Whether demonstrated by a scattered group of individuals, the lone leader disengaged from the reality of their community; or by the all too common 'committee' of a half-dozen folks who are responsible for everything at church - leadership deficit is a major challenge. We must form leaders more strategically, and witness to community more powerfully.

### The Choice

As such, the MEI is dedicated to forming Christian leaders who are effective agents of social change by **leading together, not alone**. With each of the MEI teams individuals will participate in peer **missional leadership teams**. As team members, they will receive extensive, professional leadership training and coaching in missional engagement and leadership development. Teams will be collectively responsible for designing, organizing and implementing their local missional campaign. Through their work, they will learn how to apply their skills, and begin to teach these skills to others.

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<sup>1</sup> McLaren, B (2010), *A New Kind of Christianity*, Harper Collins, pg. 170.

## Overview

The School of Theology's Missional Engagement Initiative (MEI) program is a six-month learning lab where teams based in churches, schools, or other organizations learn the fundamental practices of collaborative leadership and Christian discipleship. Through organizing a mission-focused project, teams are coached to engage in an action-reflection model where they plan, act, evaluate, and celebrate. In addition to the regular meetings and events, teams participate in a Taste & See discernment event; three Saturday trainings; regular coaching sessions with an experienced guide; and a program conclusion and celebration.

## 2016 Core Leadership Team

- The Rev. Evan Garner *St. John's Episcopal Church, Decatur, Alabama*
- Ms. Marilyn Lands *Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, Alabama*
- Ms. Lisa Leopold *Southside Abbey, Chattanooga, Tennessee*
- Mr. Rob McAllister *The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee*
- The Rev. Lisa McIndoo *The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee*
- Dr. Andrew Thompson *The School of Theology, Sewanee, Tennessee*
- The Rev. Kammy Young *The School of Theology, Sewanee, Tennessee*

## MEI Program 2016-2017 Timeline

Sat. June 18, 2016, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

### **“Taste & See: Discerning a Collective Call to Faith & Action**

Potential teams begin to discern the urgent needs in their community and where they feel called to act by learning and practicing public narrative, the 1:1 meeting, and a house meeting.

Location: The School of Theology, Cravens Hall

Sat. Sept. 10, 2016, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.

### **“Foundations of Shared Leadership”**

Training in all leadership practices. Teams launch their missional projects.

Location: The School of Theology, Cravens Hall

Sat., Oct./Nov., 2016, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Teams meet for a mid-program gathering for supplemental training.

Location and date TBD by teams

Sat., Jan./Feb., 2017, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Teams meet for a second mid-program gathering and to give and receive support for their projects.

Location and date TBD by teams

Sat. April 22, 2017

Teams celebrate their projects!

Location and time TBD by tea

**The School of Theology Missional Engagement Initiative**  
**Taste & See List of Guests Registered 6-15-2016**

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Nicole Pasquarello

**Church of the Nativity, Huntsville**

Gary Rasponi

Carol McCrady

**Church of the Resurrection, Rainbow City, AL**

Michael Goldsmith, Rector

Fran Summerlin

Jonathan Huffstutler

Susan Sailors

**St. Agnes, Cowan, TN**

Jared Pearson

Benjamin Money

Alice Black

**St. Andrew's – Sewanee School**

Drew Bunting, Chaplain

Molly Short, Chaplain

**St Bede's, Manchester, TN**

Mary Hassell, Priest in Charge

**St. John's, Decatur, AL**

Jim Smith

Julie Sneed

**St. John the Baptist**

Isaac Blevins

**St. Mark's, Antioch, TN**

Battle Beasley, Rector

**Southeast Tennessee Episcopal Ministry,  
Sewanee region**

Amy Lamborn, Vicar

David Cobb

**Trinity, Winchester, TN**

Lynn Williams

Betty Pinkerton

**Epiphany, Sherwood, TN**

Kathy Pack

Bryan Wells

**Christ Church, Alto, TN**

Elizabeth Adams

Brian McDowell

**Christ Church, Tracy City, TN**

Carl Goodman

Hillary Goodman

**Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee**

George Young

**MEI Taste & See Training Team:**

- Kammy Young: Program Director, Lead Trainer (904-556-1634)
- Lisa McIndoo: New Lead Trainer, Facilitator (901-335-3800)
- Evan Garner: Trainer, Facilitator (256-221-4262)
- Andy Thompson: Trainer, New Facilitator (931-636-1844)
- Rob McAllister: Chaplain, New Facilitator (931-636-8758)
- Tom Early: New Facilitator (319-429-9727)
- Nick Phares: New Facilitator (269-788-7063)
- April Berends: *in absentia, prayers for healing*

## Opening Worship

### Gathering the People

**Welcome everyone!**

*Leader:* Come Holy, Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Holy Spirit and we will be created and you will renew the face of the earth.

### Musical version of Psalm 34:1-8

*Taste and See*

(please see the song sheets on your table)

### Scripture Reading: Micah 6:8

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

**Scripture Response:** *Please say your name and the name of your church/organization, and share a word or phrase about how this scripture connects with you and/or your church or community. Worship leader goes first and invites others at each table to do the same. Everyone has the option of passing on sharing the word or phrase (either altogether or to come back to you later).*

### Hymn:

*This Little Light of Mine*

(please see the song sheets on your table)

*This is one of the popular hymns of the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, TN which inspires our work.*

### Prayers:

*We invite your intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently shared or spoken aloud.*

#### Covenants of Presence Litany

Help us to be fully present here and now as we extend and presume welcome among our friends and neighbors. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us to listen generously to each others' stories. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us to faithfully and fearless share our own story. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us come as equals and never feel pressured to share. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us to suspend judgment and to be mindful that we are not here to fix others but to witness God's presence in the stories we share. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us turn to wonder as we hold all that is shared today with care. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us to be mindful and respectful of each other's time. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us to create a safe, respectful space as we practice confidentiality. *We beseech you to hear us, oh Lord.*

Help us believe that it is possible for us to come from our time together refreshed, surprised, and less burdened than when we came. *Grant us your peace.*

*Adapted Touchstones used in The Center for Courage and Renewal's Circles of Trust Retreats and from The FTE Guide to VocationCARE, ♥ 2012, the Forum for Theological Exploration, pp. 11-12 and further adapted by R. Beazley*

### The Lord's Prayer

### The Concluding Collect: The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## GOALS AND AGENDA

Participants will:

1. Understand the MEI team and calendar and MEI's mission to effectively increase parishes' capacity for transformational lay leadership and mission development and enable us all to live more fully into our baptismal covenant.
2. Understand and practice building relational commitment (the 1:1, Missional Tool #1) as an intentional skill toward recruiting people for a house meeting and for being part of a team developing a mission project.
3. Learn how to uncover an urgent need in their community they are called to address by practicing a house meeting (Missional Tool #2).
4. Have a clear set of next steps and strategy for recruiting others to consider joining in God's mission in their neighborhood.

<b>Sat. June 18, 2016</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Page</b>
10:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Worship (15 minutes)	6
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Story - Public narrative (5 min)</li> <li>• Introduction to Missional Engagement Initiative (5 min)</li> <li>• Agenda Review and Goals (5 min)</li> </ul>	7
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Introduction to Missional Tools (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation (12 min.)</li> <li>• Energizer (3 min)</li> </ul>	
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Missional Tool #1 – Shared Relational Commitment & Introduction to 1-1 Meetings (45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>• Fishbowl Example (5 min)</li> <li>• Debrief Fishbowl 1-1</li> <li>• Small Group Exercise: Practicing the 1:1 meeting (20 min)</li> <li>• Key Learning/Questions (5 min)</li> </ul>	8-11
Noon	Blessing over the Food and pick up boxes for working lunch	
12:15 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.	Missional Tool #2 - Shared Relational Commitment – House Meetings (55 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on House Meetings (5 min)</li> <li>• Small Group House Meeting practice (45 min)</li> <li>• Plenary Debrief (5 min)</li> </ul>	12-18
1:10 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.	Rooted & Grounded in Love (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on Foundations in our Faith (5 min)</li> <li>• Developing Your Next Steps and Work Plan (5 min)</li> </ul>	19
1:20 p.m.- 1:30 pm	Evaluation & Closing Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slideshow for Notes follow</li> </ul>	20



# Becoming a Missional Church Training

## TOOL #1: THE ONE-TO-ONE RELATIONAL MEETING

### **What is a One-to-One?**

The One-to-One relational meeting is intentional, well-framed conversation between two people. It is the basic building block of all relationship building in organizing for mission. It connects heart, head, and hands; story, strategy, and action; the “why?” the “how?” that are both needed to inspire effective action.

### **What does a One-to-One Meeting help us to do?**

- Form relationships
- Discover common purpose
- Build power
- Heal brokenness and overcome resistance
- Welcome people from all ends of the spectrum
- Discern where the Spirit is moving
- Claim our own callings
- Identify our own and others’ gifts and wisdom
- Discern ideas and direction for a new ministry
- Get feedback for current or past ministries

### **What happens in a One-to-One meeting?**

#### **The Invitation**

- Offer an honest invitation that expresses your desire to have a mutually enlightening conversation. For example, you might explain, “Our ministry is doing some listening in our neighborhood (or community or with each other). I’d love to hear your story, passions and questions around [fill in blank] and share my own. Could we meet for about 45 minutes soon?”
- In preparation for the meeting, spend time reflecting on your own story: What drives you? What concerns you? What community do you dream of?

#### **The Conversation:**

- Two people meet for an agreed upon time – ideally for 30-45 minutes.
- This is not surface small talk, pastoral conversation or an interview, with one person speaking and the other listening. Rather, both share stories of the convictions and hopes that drive them.
- The sharing is usually guided by a compelling concern and reflection on specific experiences.
- You may have to go first, to model storytelling and hospitality. Paint a picture and recall specifics.
- The host/initiator asks open questions to help the conversation to go deeper (“Why did you think that?” “How did it make you feel?”). Move from when and who, into how and why.

#### **The Close:**

- Be sure to close well and not allow the conversation to drag along.
- Ask for follow-up opportunities: “Is there anyone you think would share this passion or concern?”
- The initiator should also explore next steps: “What could we do together (for God)?”



## **How can my congregation use One-to-Ones?**

### **1. Do One-to-Ones within the church community, in order to ...**

- Discover shared history, concerns, convictions and passion.
- Build trust and pathways for working together and trusting each other.
- Identify areas for community transformation, and celebrate what each contributes to that change.

#### ***Sample questions within the church:***

- Why do you come here? Tell me a time that you felt God really alive in our church.
- What have you loved in this church and in our traditions?
- Tell me about a time that you shared your gifts with our church. A time when you received?
- When have you laughed at church? What was happening?
- When have you seen our church successfully, gracefully handle a challenge? What did you learn?
- When have you seen us fail at something together? What have you learned?
- What changes in our church would concern or even disturb you, and why?
- How has our church shared God's love with our neighborhood? What was good or hard about it?
- How do you wish we could share God's love with our neighborhood in the future? What would we need? What do we already have?

### **2. Do One-to-Ones with neighbors and people who are not in your church, in order to ...**

- Discover how your church has related to and been perceived by its neighborhood.
- Listen for what your neighbors and potential partners need in order to trust and partner with you.
- Discover others' gifts, offer your own, and together imagine ministries that build on those gifts.

#### ***Sample questions with neighbors and others:***

- Have you ever interacted with our congregation? Share the story of your experience with our church.
- What kind of community do you dream of being part of? Share a story of when you've seen it happen.
- What do you care about and why? Share a story of how you came to care so much.
- What issue keeps you up at night or grieves your heart? Tell the story of why you care.
- What hope makes your heart sing and moves you to act? Tell the story of why you act.
- What have your experiences of church been like?
- What have your experiences of God been like?
- What wisdom and practices in your regular life link you to God? How would you like to share them?
- What ministries or mission could we create or share, together, for the wider community?

### **3. Do One-to-Ones with partner organizations in your area, in order to ...**

- Engage group-to-group, leader-to-leader: local shops, yoga studios, neighborhood churches, etc.
- Link with civic and religious groups representing communities with whom you seek to engage.
- Discover ground where you could meet, share commitments and ministry, and build relationship.
- Build your capacity to embrace and value the gifts of others and grow mutual partnership.

#### ***Sample questions with partner organizations:***

- Has your group ever interacted with our church? Share the story of your experience with us.
- What do you wish a church would do in this community? Tell a story of when you've seen churches acting as mutual partners and helpful allies?
- What kind of community do you dream of being part of? Share a story of when you've seen it happen.
- When have you seen groups coming together to act on values in a way that made a difference?
- What do you wish our groups could do together (for God)?



## BREAKOUT: THE 1:1 EXERCISE

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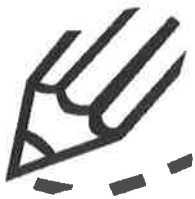
### Goals

- Practice the art of the 1-to-1 conversation by using probing questions to learn who another person is, what has defined them over their life, and what drives them.
- Reflect on what comes up, and discern shared passions, interests, and resources.

### Directions

**TOTAL TIME: 20 min**

1.	<p>Pair off with someone you don't know. Decide who will initiate the conversation and who will be the invitee.</p> <p>The initiator will introduce him/herself, then try to learn, in an intentional way, who the other person is. Probe with "why?" questions to get to stories about specific experiences, people, and choices that shaped her/his life, and reveal his/her deeper motivations and desires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does s/he care most about?</li> <li>• What has led him/her here?</li> <li>• Why are you called to leadership in your community?</li> </ul> <p>Listen also for leadership qualities and interests. The initiator should share parts of his/her own story as well. If there is overlap, identify common interests and resources, and ask for further commitment. (See worksheet)</p>	10 min
2.	<p>Find a new partner. If you initiated a conversation last time, you will now be the invitee. Have a 1:1 meeting</p>	10 min



## WORKSHEET: RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH 1:1S

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### Listening During the 1:1:

As you hear each other's stories, keep track of details using the following grid.

- *Do you have a sense of what drives this person? What are their deepest priorities? What do they care about most?*
- *What are their leadership qualities?*
- *What are their interests? Resources?*
- *Is there an opportunity to further this relationship/connection through a particular commitment? What are your next steps?*

MOTIVATIONS / PRIORITIES	LEADERSHIP QUALITIES	INTERESTS/ RESOURCES	COMMITMENT?



# Becoming a Missional Church Training

## TOOL #2: THE HOUSE MEETING

- This is a 90 minute meeting, with 5-10 minutes of gathering time beforehand
- This agenda's timing is based on 10 people in attendance
- *Italics* indicate scripted portion to be read aloud

5-10 minutes	<b>Gather, Sign-in and Fellowship (before meeting officially begins)</b>
If your meeting is going to start at 7:00 p.m., tell people to arrive at 6:50 p.m., which will give them time to get a seat and sign in so that you can start right on time. Have your sign in sheet out and pass it around as people are arriving.	
5 minutes	<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Introductions</b>
<p>1) Begin with the following prayer– you can either offer it yourself or ask someone in the group to offer the prayer.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Almighty God, who in every age has called brave souls for the transformation of the world, by the guidance of your Holy Spirit, grant that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Judge and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, now and forever. <i>Amen</i> (from “Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints,” p. 736)</p> <p>2) Introduce yourself and thank everyone for coming. Next have everyone briefly introduce themselves – <b>their name only</b>.</p> <p>3) <b>You will need a timekeeper and a recorder.</b> It is best to ask 2 people in advance to <u>fill these roles</u>. Introduce them at this time and let people know what their role is.</p> <p>4) Explain:</p> <p><i>The purpose of the listening session is to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Build and deepen relationships and awareness among members of our community,</i></li> <li><i>2. Identify community concerns so that we can consider how we might use our faith to find solutions and take effective action together; and</i></li> <li><i>3. Expand our capacity to be transformational leaders addressing the urgent challenges in our community right now.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>I would like to begin our discussion by centering us in Scripture. One of the passages of scripture that is important to all people of faith comes from Micah 6:8: Can someone please read that scripture on the agenda?</i></p> <p>“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” – <i>Micah 6:8</i></p> <p><b>[NOTE for Facilitator:</b> be sure the scripture is printed on the agenda.]</p>	
15 minutes	<b>Ice Breaker</b>
1 minute to think, 1 minute for each person to share	

**[NOTE for Facilitator: Tips for asking Ice Breaker Question**

- 1) Give the group about 1 minute to think about their response
- 2) House Meeting Leader goes first. Be sure to share not only what the first thing you remember about your congregation is, but also why. Think of the experience you will share in advance because it will set the tone for what others share.
- 3) Call on each person to give a one-minute answer. You may have to interrupt to keep things moving if someone starts to take more than one minute.

**Be prepared to ask people how they are personally affected by this good memory of attending their congregation and why specifically that experience is important to them if the answer is general. We want to surface stories.]**

*To get to know each other, take a moment to think about a good memory you have of attending your congregation. Perhaps it is the first time you visited the congregation, participated in a ministry, or saw your children get involved for the first time.*

*Each person is going to have about 1 minute to share their answer. I'm going to give you about 1 minute to think and then I am going to share my story first. After my story we will go around the room and each person will have 1 minute. Our timekeeper is going to make sure that we stay to one minute, and our recorder is going to write a few notes. If you go over your minute I may need to cut you off to make sure that we have time for everyone. Okay?*

[pause for 1 minute]

*I will go ahead and go first. "One of the first things that I remember about our congregation is..."*

**[NOTE for Facilitator: You should think of your story in advance. It should be something specific. The kind of story you tell will set the tone for the rest of the stories.]**

**Transition statement:**

*We have heard some great stories and we'd like to hear more, but we will need to move on now in order to make sure that we get through the entire agenda.*

**25 minutes**

**Discussion Question #1**

*"If you wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning, what are you worried/stressed about?"*

**Take 1 minute to think/write down; each person has 2 minutes to share**

*We are here because we are committed to living out the biblical commandment to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God". Our church is holding house meetings to discuss what the our faith has to say, to surface community problems or concerns that require us to act on our faith, and to invite people to join us in discovering new ways of working together to love our neighbors as ourselves more fully.*

*One of the things that we have learned is that other congregations and communities like ours have done some great things.*

- *In Ft. Payne, AL, people at St. Philip's Church were upset about their friends, neighbors, and co-workers who felt betrayed and abandoned by their traditional church homes or who had never experienced a loving, supportive church community. So they started two new groups that meet at 1889 Vintage Café and are still*

going strong a year later with 30-40 people meeting each week to explore spiritual issues in a safe, non-threatening environment.

- In Huntsville, AL people at Church of the Nativity were worried about inner city children and now the largest housing project in Huntsville is connected in partnership with a neighboring church just two miles away and 35 at-risk students and their families have been enabled to access resources ranging from new friendships and expanded community gardening and food markets, as well as fresh food for the children and flowers they can share with their mothers.
- Another church in Huntsville, AL, was concerned that they did lots of outreach, but didn't know their immediate neighbors right around them. They discovered that there was a huge aging population within a 2-mile radius of their church building, and not 60-75 of those come together for "Lunch-n-Serve" each month at St. Thomas for fellowship, a community service project, and to access resources for meeting their own needs.
- In Decatur, AL, people at St. John's wanted to be real neighbors with the nearby elementary school. They discovered that what many parents most needed was English as a Second Language classes rather than tutoring for their children. They were able to not only provide the space for those ESL classes, but enjoy fantastic covered dishes and friendships with those 16 or so families.
- Another church in Decatur were upset by the divisions along racial lines in their community, and now their King's Memorial Methodist Church are partners in leadership development and ministry with the pre-Kindergarten children and when the shootings this summer in South Carolina happened, the next Sunday they shut down Good Shepherd church and were there to worship with their African American friends.
- People in Scottsboro discovered that one of the college professors at St. Luke's Church had a student and her husband who were working two part-time minimum wage jobs just to make ends meet, and that this was the situation of the majority of guests at their food pantry. So when the budget was going to be cut and shut down the food pantry during a rector transition, they were motivated to raise the funds to keep it open and 100 working-class families' need for supplemental were met.

Work on these concerns started because people had conversations to talk about what broke their heart or made them angry in their community. These conversations help people decide what urgent challenge they are called to address.

The starting point for those conversations was what is going on in people's lives. Our work has to be grounded in the realities faced by us and the people we know. So our first question for reflection is, **"If you wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning, what are you worried or stressed about?"**

When you think about this question, please be as specific and direct as possible. Many of us have all kinds of things about which we worry. Many of us keep those things to ourselves because we worry that other people will judge us. And when we keep silent, those problems go unspoken and fear grows. When we talk about these problems, we usually find something in common. The mission projects that I talked about before happened because people started having these conversations with each other in one-to-one meetings and house meetings.

- You might be worried about your credit card payments.
- You might be worried about who is going to care for your parents.
- You might be worried about losing your job.
- You might worry about crime and violence in your neighborhood.

In this meeting, we are not going to be looking for solutions. First, we have to understand the problems. The solutions will be discussed later during the process of forming missional leadership teams to dream and use the resources God's

*given us in this community to find some way we can creatively address them together. So let's listen carefully to each other.*

*We have a few groundrules: (have them printed on the agenda or written on a big piece of newsprint for everyone to see)*

1. *Listen with respect to all of the participants in the meeting.*
2. *Our purpose is to get community problems and concerns on the table. We are not looking for solutions. That will come later in the process.*
3. *As facilitator, I am going to give everyone two minutes to respond to the discussion question. When your two minutes is up I will call time (or the timekeeper will) and move onto the next person. There will be about five minutes for general discussion after everyone has responded. If I don't keep us on time then we could all be here a long time.*
4. *Finally, we want to make sure that what we share in this discussion is treated with respect. We will be reporting out the problems/worries that people are facing. We all have to agree not to gossip about what we discuss at this meeting.*

*Can everyone agree to these ground rules?*

*Okay think about the question for one minute... I will go ahead and share first. When I wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning, one of the things that I am worried about is...because...*

**[NOTE for Facilitator:** You should think of your story in advance. It should be something specific. The kind of story you tell will set the tone for the rest of the stories.]

<b>25 minutes</b>	<b>Discussion Question #2</b>
	<i>"What community problem or justice issue concerns you the most, and why?"</i>
	<b>Take 1 minute to think/write down; each person has 2 minutes to share</b>

**[NOTE for Facilitator:** Tips for Question #2

- You can approach this second question just like the last one. Again it is good to ask people how they are personally affected by these problems.
- Be sure to ask for stories. How do these problems affect you, your family or someone you know closely on a personal level?
- If someone makes a general comment, ask people how that problem affects them or someone they know personally.
- Observe that there are some serious problems facing our community...
- As you listened to each other, what were you feeling in your gut?...anger, despair, resolve...]

*I appreciate everyone's stories. We've already talked about some very serious problems. Some of them seem overwhelming. I want to reiterate that one of the things we have learned from others is that when we join our heads and hearts and hands together, we can actually solve some of these seemingly overwhelming problems. The next thing on our agenda is to talk more specifically about the community: "When you think about this community, what is one community problem that makes you angry?"*

*After everyone has reflected on the question, then there will be 5 minutes for group discussion and as the facilitator I'll be moderating the discussion.*

*Okay think about the question for one minute... I will go ahead and share first. "When I think about this community, the problem/justice issue that concerns me most is...because..."*

**[Note for Facilitator:** Each person thinks about the question for one minute. You go first and model not only the problem you want us to tackle, but why. Facilitator calls on each person around the circle to give a two minute answer. After everyone has reflected on the question there will be 5 minutes for group discussion with the facilitator moderating discussion (see below)]

<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Open Discussion:</b> <b>More time to discuss concerns already raised, identify new ones and respond to other people's comments</b>
------------------	--

*Okay, now we have a few more minutes to have an open discussion. You can discuss concerns already raised in more detail; bring up something new, etc. Who would like to start?*

**[NOTE for Facilitator:** This time, *do not* go around the circle. Just see if anyone has concerns related to other areas that they want to talk about. You may need to still ask people to limit their comments to 1 minute and cut people off if a lot of people want to talk.

Tips for discussion:

- Observe areas of commonality and ask why do you think that?
- Ask if the groups see any threads. What ties us together?
- Ask people how that problem affects them or someone they know personally.

**After 5 minutes:**

*I'm sorry to have to cut discussion off, but we will need to move on to the rest of the agenda now. If anyone would like to stay after the meeting and discuss some more you are more than welcome to, but I want to be respectful of everyone's time.*

<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Invitation to be part of this work</b>
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*We have talked about some very serious concerns in our community. As we've said, many of these problems are overwhelming. (name one or two of the problems). They are certainly overwhelming when you wake up at three in the morning worrying about them. They are especially overwhelming when we think about what any of us as individuals can do to solve them.*

*We are not only going to talk about the problems. We will invite people to commit to be part of the solution by joining our missional leadership team here in our community,*

*The School of Theology's Missional Engagement Initiative (MEI) program is a six-month learning lab where teams based in churches, schools, or other organizations learn fundamental practices of sharing leadership based on values and concerns they have in common. Teams are coached to organize a mission-focused project that they plan, take concrete action on, evaluate and celebrate. In addition to the team meetings and events, team members participate in three Saturday trainings.*

*A leadership team is a group of four or more people who agree to two basic things:*

1. *We agree to attend a training in Sewanee, TN with teams from other towns on Sat., Sept. 10, 2016, attend two other Saturday meetings here locally in our area to give and receive support for our work, and attend a*



*program conclusion celebration event on April 22, 2016 with the teams from other communities (4 things all together).*

2. *We agree to be faithful to our team's intention to:*
  - *Lead with others, not alone*
  - *Model flexibility and commitment*
  - *Share an interest in combining our faith with action*
  - *Seek transformation and learning*

*The basic commitment is a decision to develop leadership, to accept responsibility for enabling others to achieve God's purposes in the face of uncertainty.*

*This program will be a critical part of how we build the power of God's people necessary to "do justice, love mercy, and humbly with God" and solve some of the serious community problems about which we have already talked.*

*We are asking each of you to be a part of this. I have already told the priest serving my church that I would be part of this team and I am committing to work with a team on issues raised in this meeting as a way of doing what I understand the Lord requires.*

*I would like to ask each of you if you would be willing to do the same.*

**[NOTE for Facilitator:** At this point go around the room and ask each person **individually** if they will assist with the team's work. Example: "Bob, would you be willing to be work with us to research and take action in following up on the problems raised in this meeting? Great thank you. Sally would you be willing to...? Great. Joan would you be willing to...? Etc. etc.]

**3 minutes**

**Evaluation**

***Each person give 1 word evaluation of the meeting***

*I want to thank everyone who came. I am really excited to be a part of this work and I am glad that you have been part of it too.*

*I'd like to give everyone a chance to quickly evaluate the meeting. If we could just go around the circle and, if you would, just say one word about what you thought about the meeting. I'll start, my one word is \_\_\_\_\_.*

**2 minutes**

**Closing Prayer and Adjourn**

*If anyone wants to stay and talk some more feel free to. Thanks again for coming. Now let's pray to close our meeting.*

*"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ..."*

**[NOTE for Facilitator:**

1. Be sure the Lord's Prayer is printed on the agenda in case memory fails some or it is unfamiliar to others.
2. Be sure to get the notes from the recorder.
3. Be sure to get everyone's contact information on the sign-in sheet.



# Next Step: Hosting A House Meeting for Your Community

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## SAMPLE AGENDA FOR A HOUSE MEETING

*Location of meeting*

*Date of Meeting*

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8

Gather, Sign-in and Fellowship (5-10 minutes)

(5 minutes)                      Opening Prayer & Introductions

(15 minutes)                    Relationship Building - Ice Breaker

*Ground rules:*

1. Listen with respect to all of the participants in the meeting.
2. We are not looking for solutions. That will come later.
3. Everyone has two minutes to respond to the discussion question. When your two minutes is up, we'll call time and move onto the next person.
4. We want to make sure that what we share in this discussion is treated with respect. We will be reporting out the problems/worries that people are facing. We all have to agree not to gossip about what we discuss at this meeting.

(25 minutes)                    Discussion Question #1

(25 minutes)                    Discussion Question #2

(10 minutes)                   Open Discussion

(5 minutes)                    Invitation & Next Steps

(3 minutes)                    Evaluation

(2 minutes)                    Closing Prayer and Adjourn

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



# **Practicing Resurrection:**

## **Essential Practices Rooted & Grounded In Love**

### **For Powerfully Living Our Baptismal Covenant**

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#### **Overview of the Six Transformational Leadership Practices**

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##### **Shared Story**

*Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?*  
Recovering the traditional Christian discipline of testimony

+

##### **Shared Relational Commitment**

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?*  
Reframing the traditional Christian discipline of evangelism

+

##### **Shared Holy & Effective Structure**

*Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?*  
Rebuilding the foundational Christian art of spiritual formation and shepherding

+

##### **Shared Creative Strategy**

*Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*  
Rethinking the spiritual practice of partnering in God's mission

+

##### **Shared Faith in Action**

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*  
Reclaiming the essential prophetic identity of God's people through the practice of doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God

+

##### **Shared Guidance & Awakened Hearts**

*Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?*  
Recreating the Christian spiritual discipline of corporate guidance

## Closing Worship

**Psalm verse (prayed in unison) as we light the candles we take home with us:**

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. - *Psalm 43:3*

**Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:6-7**

I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

**Hymn:** *We Shall Overcome*

(please see the song sheets on your table)

— *Adapted by Zilphia Horton from a gospel hymn and taught at Highlander Folks School.*

*Used around the world as a song that lifts our spirits and inspires us with hope to overcome problems.*

**Prayers:**

*Please share a word or phrase of intention or commitment to let our light shine: to return on Sept, 10.2016 for further training on how to do so, with God's Spirit of power and love and of self-discipline, or in some other way. We invite to share our common commitment for baptismal living:*

*Leader* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*People* I do.

*Leader* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

**The Collect:**

O God, you have called us by name and we are yours. Our times are in your hands. You know our joys, our nightmares, our weaknesses. Remind us, nudge us, make us mindful of your presence, to listen to your Spirit. Be swift to encourage us to care for and pray for our neighbors, and aid us as we build and share your loving power for the benefit of our community. In the powerful name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. *Amen*

*2015 Transformers' (MNST 562 course), slightly adapted*

**Closing blessing:**

May God grant us the grace never to sell ourselves short;

Grace to do something big for something good;

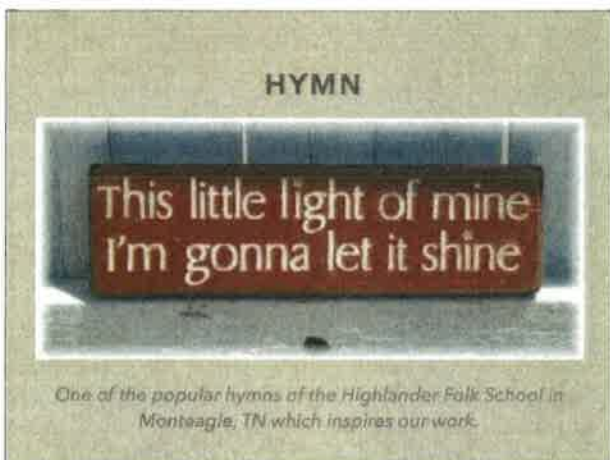
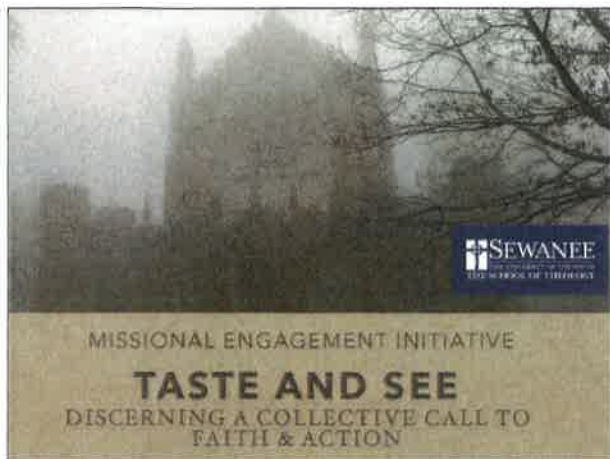
Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth,

And to small for anything but love –

And the blessing of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –

Be among us, inspire us, and remain with us forever.

- William Sloan Coffin



## THE COLLECT: THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your  
steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may  
proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your  
justice with compassion; for the sake of your Savior Jesus  
Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

## THE REV. EVAN D. GARNER



## SHARED STORIES



CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP: TESTIMONY

## WHY SHARE OUR STORIES?

- Communicate our passions
- Fosters relationships
- Discover new truths
- Find common purpose
- Stories lead to action
- Stories open our hearts





## AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Team Breakfast, Set up & Coaching Meeting	Leader
10:30 a.m.	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Worship (15 minutes)</b> Prayer, Song, Covenant of Presence	Rev. McIndoo
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks (15 minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Narrative (5 min)</li> <li>Agenda Review and Goals (5 min)</li> <li>Introduction to Missional Engagement Initiative &amp; Training Team (5 min)</li> </ul>	Vivian Garner
11:00 - 11:15 a.m.	<b>Introduction to Missional Goals (15 minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preaching (10 min)</li> <li>Background (2 min)</li> </ul>	Rev. McIndoo
11:15 a.m. - Noon	<b>Missional Task #1 - Shared Relational Commitment</b> - introduction to 1-1 Ministry (55 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>Prayerful Exercise (5 min)</li> <li>Defining the Mission 1:1 (5 min)</li> <li>Small Group Exercise: Practicing the 1:1 Meeting (20 min)</li> <li>Key Learning/Questions (5 min)</li> </ul>	Andy Thompson
Noon	<b>Blessing over the Food and pick up boxes for working lunch (15 minutes)</b>	
12:15 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.	<b>Missional Task #2 - Shared Relational Commitment</b> - House Meetings (55 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation on House Meetings (10 min)</li> <li>House Meeting practice (40 min)</li> <li>Prayerful Exercise (5 min)</li> </ul>	Karen Young
1:10 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.	<b>Rooted &amp; Grounded in Love (10 minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation on Foundations of our Faith (5 min)</li> <li>Developing Your Heart Space and Work Place (10 min)</li> </ul>	Garrett Reed
1:20 - 1:30 pm	<b>Evaluation &amp; Closing Prayer (10 minutes)</b>	Rev. McIndoo

## GROUND RULES

- Begin on time, end on time & return from breaks on time
- Try it on (suspend judgment)
- Step up-step back
- Avoid smart phone interference
- Ask questions
- Practice respect Other

## THE REV. LISA MCINDOO



## BISHOP CURRY

NIGHTMARE TO DREAM



**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
PRACTICES AND OUR BAPTISMAL  
VOWS**

**Shared Story**

Will you proclaim by work and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
PRACTICES AND OUR BAPTISMAL  
VOWS**

**Shared Relational Commitment**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
PRACTICES AND OUR BAPTISMAL  
VOWS**

**Shared Holy & Effective Structure**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
PRACTICES AND OUR BAPTISMAL  
VOWS**

**Shared Creative Strategy**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: WIDENING THE CIRCLE



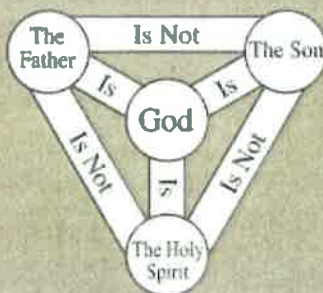
### GOALS

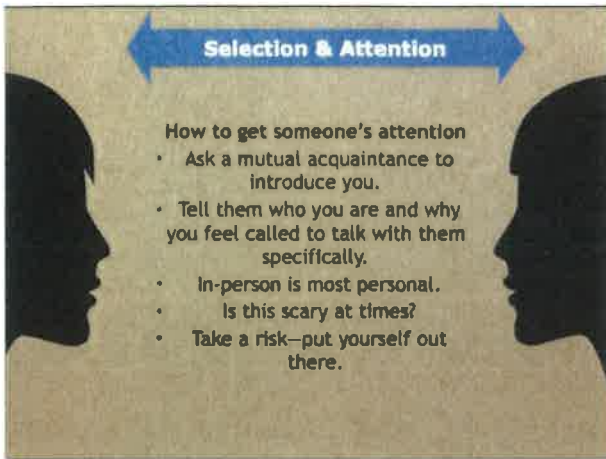
- To learn how to build relationships to develop leadership, resources, and community.
- To learn and practice the skill of 1:1s.
- To identify common values, interests and resources in the room.



WHY DO WE BUILD  
RELATIONSHIPS?

### Relationship is our Image of God





### Selection & Attention

How to get someone's attention

- Ask a mutual acquaintance to introduce you.
- Tell them who you are and why you feel called to talk with them specifically.
- In-person is most personal.
- Is this scary at times?
- Take a risk—put yourself out there.

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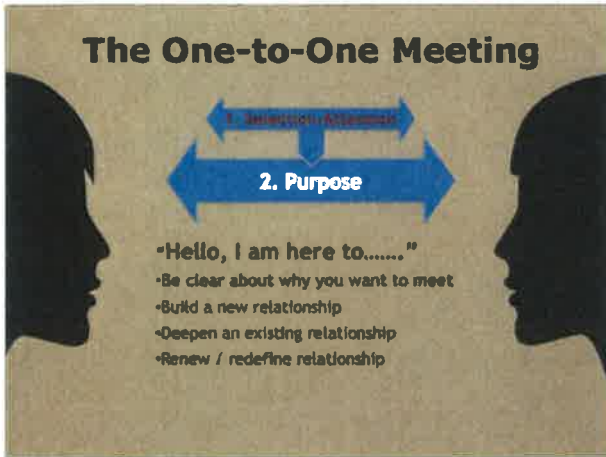
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### The One-to-One Meeting

#### 2. Purpose

“Hello, I am here to.....”

- Be clear about why you want to meet
- Build a new relationship
- Deepen an existing relationship
- Renew / redefine relationship

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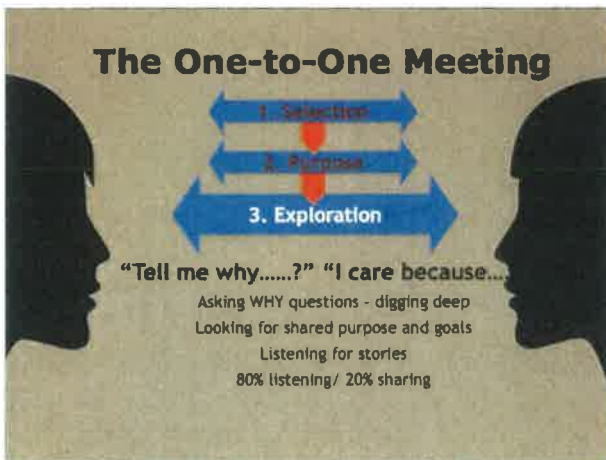
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### The One-to-One Meeting

#### 3. Exploration

“Tell me why.....?” “I care because....”

- Asking WHY questions - digging deep
- Looking for shared purpose and goals
- Listening for stories
- 80% listening/ 20% sharing

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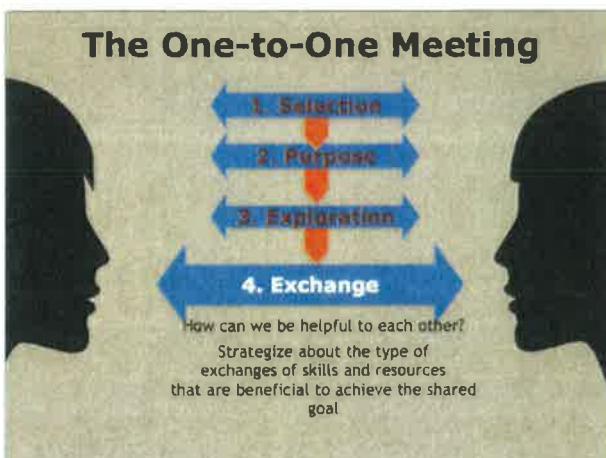
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### The One-to-One Meeting

#### 4. Exchange

How can we be helpful to each other?

- Strategize about the type of exchanges of skills and resources that are beneficial to achieve the shared goal

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### BREAKOUT: THE 1:1 EXERCISE

- Practice the art of the 1:1 conversation to get things moving with a partner in two minutes or less. What has defined them? What do they care about? What do they want?
- Reflect on what came up, and discuss shared points on conversation and recovery.

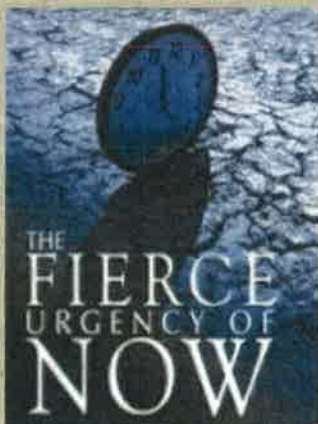
**Directions:**  
**TOTAL TIME: 30 min**

1	Pair off with someone you don't know. Decide who will initiate the conversation and who will be the answer.	10 min
	The initiator will introduce him/herself, then try to learn, in an organized way, who the other person is. "Probe" with "who/what/where" questions to get a range about specific experiences, people, and places that shaped her/his life, and reveal his/her deeper motivations and desires.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What does he/she care most about?</li><li>• What does he/she want?</li><li>• What are his/her goals?</li></ul>	
	Learn about the leadership qualities and interests. The initiator should share points of his/her own story as well. If there is overlap, identify commonalities and differences, and ask for further commitment. See evaluation.	
2	Find a new partner. If you missed a conversation last time, you will now be the answer. There is a 1:1 meeting.	10 min

## Key Learnings! Questions?



## WORKING LUNCH :15





## Debriefing the House Meeting

### What was accomplished?



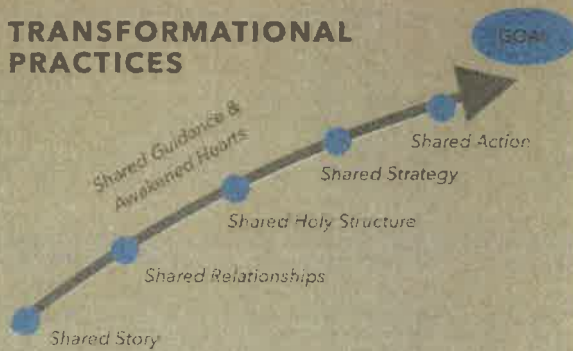
Five Steps:  
Selection  
Purpose  
Exploration  
Exchange  
Commitment

## ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

Ephesians 3:17



## TRANSFORMATIONAL PRACTICES



## ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

### The Practices Shift Communities...

From Surviving		To Thriving
Passive	Public Narrative	Motivated
Divided	Building Relationships	United
Drift	Team Structure	Purposeful
Reactive	Developing Strategy	Initiative
Inaction	Effective Action	Change



## REVIEW OF OUR GOALS FOR TODAY

- Understand MEI's mission to effectively increase parishes' capacity for transformational lay leadership and mission development and enable us all to live more fully into our baptismal covenant.
- Understand and practice building relational commitment (the 1:1, Missional Tool #1) as an intentional skill toward recruiting people for a house meeting and for being part of a team developing a mission project.
- Learn how to uncover an urgent need in their community they are called to address by practicing a house meeting (Missional Tool #2).
- Have a clear set of next steps and strategy for recruiting others to consider joining in God's mission in their neighborhood.

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The only way to learn is to DIVE IN!



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## EVALUATION & KEY LEARNINGS

- What concepts most resonated with during this learning event?
- What went well?
- What could have been improved?



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## CLOSING WORSHIP

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

PSALM 43:3



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## THE COLLECT

O God, you have called us by name and we are yours.  
Our times are in your hands.  
You know our joys, our nightmares, our weaknesses.  
Remind us, nudge us, make us mindful of your presence,  
to listen to your Spirit.  
Be swift to encourage us to care for and pray for our  
neighbors, and aid us as we build and share your loving  
power for the benefit of our community.  
In the powerful name of Jesus the Christ, we pray.

Amen

- the 2015 Transformers (class of MNST 562)

## CLOSING BLESSING

May God grant us the grace never to sell ourselves  
short;  
Grace to do something big for something good;  
Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous  
for anything but truth,  
And to small for anything but love .  
And the blessing of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -  
Be among us, inspire us, and remain with us forever.

- William Sloan Coffin