

## **GUIDE FOR SMALL AND LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

The purpose and hope for these videos is to foster creativity and confidence among congregations of the NWWA Synod AND to build relationships with our new start and redevelopment congregations. We are the Body of Christ; together. Let's learn from the Spirit's work in, with, among and around us.

### **Getting Started**

*Leader - We would encourage a lay member who has gifts in facilitating conversation to lead this discussion. We encourage the gathering to begin and end with prayer.*

*Leader - Discussion and Reflection on the video is broken into two parts. Part I allows for conversation around the video itself. Part II of the discussion allows for conversation of how learnings from the video might inform the life of the congregation you find yourself serving. Part I can be conducted in small groups, as a large group or in individual reflection. Part II should be done together with all gathered. Allow 30min for conversation in Part I and Part II. Let everyone know there will be time to share with the large group following Discussion Part I. Make sure that someone is recording or taking notes during Part I. You will need to come back to responses for Part II.*

*What you will need -*

- *white board, chalk board or flip chart to record responses,*
- *DVD player or ability to stream from YouTube*
- *People - this can be an all congregation invitation, a council invitation, or???*
  - *There is a short introductory video that can be shown to build participation*

*These conversations are meant to be starting places for larger conversations within the congregation. You will notice at certain points in the discussion that the leader is asked to consider future conversations as the need arises. You know your congregation best, please modify questions when needed.*

Discussion Part I (can be done in small groups, large group or in individual reflection)

Who we are -

1. What did this congregation notice was needed in their neighborhood?
2. What are you aware of that is needed in your congregation's context?

Our Challenges

1. What challenges are facing this ministry?
2. What opportunity to overcome these challenges is shared in the video?

Our Hope in the Spirit's Work

1. Where do you see hope for this ministry?
2. Where do you see hope for the ministry of your congregation?

Whose we are - Hope for the future

1. How do you see the Gospel being lived out in this ministry?

Discussion Part II (with all gathered)

*Leader - invite a close to conversation and reflection after 30min.*

1. Ask for responses from question two in the "Who We Are" portion. If you worked in a large group, go back to these responses.
2. Ask those gathered what they notice about the responses - record their reflections.
3. If the congregation has a mission or vision statement, take a moment to share it with those gathered. Ask them to keep this mission and vision statement in mind as you discuss the next three questions.
4. Ask where the ministry of this congregation intersects with the needs recorded
  - a. If there are intersections - invite reflection and feedback around the challenges and hope around this ministry
    - i. *Leader - you may find that further conversation is needed - assure those gathered that opportunity will be made available to spend more time on this topic*
  - b. If there are no intersections - invite reflection and feedback around the question, "is it possible the Spirit is inviting us to partner with those already working on this need OR to develop something new?"
    - i. If no - Ask what current ministry of the congregation meets the need of the context this congregation serves - name the needs being met - identify the challenges and hopes for this ministry
      1. *Leader - pay attention to what needs are named - if the needs were not among those listed by the group earlier - there may or*

*may not be a need for reflection among wider leadership to determine if the perceived need being met by the current ministry is an actual need. It absolutely might be! However, it might not...this will give strong indication that a ministry evaluation is needed within the congregation.*

- ii. If yes - record these initial ideas and wonderings and let those gathered know that more time will be made available to have further discernment around what emerges
  1. *Leader - if you desire ideas in how to have future conversation, please contact the EO team and our DEM, Dianne Jacobson*
5. Ask what Biblical grounding they would name for the ministry of this congregation.
  - a. If the congregation has a mission or vision statement that draws on a particular Biblical story/teaching this is a good time to share and remind (if those gathered do not bring it up)
6. Take a moment to remind those gathered that they are beloved by God. Take a moment to remind those gathered that Jesus saves, not us. Take a moment to give thanks for all the Spirit has done, is doing and will do in, among and through this congregation.

## **Rev. Wendy Chung - Love Me Ministry**

Who we are - Love Me Ministry

Our Challenges - Something New

Our Hope in the Spirit's Work

Whose we are - Hope for the Future

## **Rev. Charis Weathers - Echoes (Bellingham)**

Who we are - Echos

Our Challenges - Church in a new way

Our Hope in the Spirit's Work

Whose we are - Hope for the Future

**Rev. Diakonda Gurning, Bethel Lutheran Church (Shoreline)**

Who we are - Bethel

Our Challenges - Re-learn to Tell the Story

Our Challenges - Welcome the Stranger

Our Hope in the Spirit's Work

Whose we are - Our Hope for the future

**Rev. John Michael Barich, Glendale Lutheran Church and School (Burien)**

Who we are - Church and School - effect of history

Our Challenges - Making Connections

Our Challenges - Permission to Try

Our Hope in the Spirit's Work

Whose we are - Our Hope for the Future

**Rev. Mike Wang, Grace Chinese Lutheran Church of South King County (Renton)**

Who we are - Grace Chinese

Our Challenges - Invitation to the Gospel

Our Hope in the Spirit's Work

Whose we are - Our Hope for the Future