

**Community
Discussion Questions
August 17, 2017**



1. How do you utilize your new member process/class to teach the importance of biblical community to your new members?

Not at this time, but we have in the past, since December

We do have the material from the class to use if we want to

We can refer to mcusa.org to access other materials and in particular look into the Foundations course

2. Look over the last six weeks of sermons/messages your church has heard. How often have the people heard, even briefly, about the importance of biblical community?

We have heard it in invitations to attend life groups, the spiritual gifts/church life series we just finished,

We encourage outreach into the community, singing at nursing homes, gleaners being helped by youth, Saturday L George's meeting, and other church groups that gather together at L George's and the staff recognizes the groups when they come in to meet

3. Evaluate your strategy for launching new small groups. Do you have a solid strategy?

Don't really have one at this point. Some groups will be using Experiencing God as a new study.

Sunday night was discussed as something that worked well in the past. The relaxed atmosphere was a real draw in people's mind.

4. Evaluate your church's strategy for helping people within the congregation understand their spiritual gifts.

The recent series on spiritual gifts was helpful, the introduction of spiritual gift inventories, the teaching on the subject.

The "next step" could have been pursued a little more.

5. As a team think through the principle of celebrating "normal" volunteers as opposed to "super" volunteers. What are some ways you can celebrate?

Say thank you

Avoid bombarding hard workers with more responsibilities that they don't have time to do

Some ways to publicly express appreciation like sending the "special ones" on trips 😊, have appreciation banquets

There was some discussion about a "fellowship committee" who was in charge of such things

Send thank you notes

We talked about the system for sending birthday cards, anniversaries, etc. currently put together by Gail and sent out by Steve.

6. How do you challenge new members to serve?

Beg personally 😊

Ask them to pray about it

Put the needs in the bulletin

Announce from the pulpit

List who the directors of ministries are in the bulletin so people know who to contact.

Have a recruiting Sunday where ministry directors have displays up where people can join their team.

7. If someone wanted to volunteer for a particular ministry this weekend, who would you direct the person to?

Work on the point of contact (POC) list.

Have a more deliberate assimilation process.

Be open to new ideas.

8. How would the person be trained and placed in a ministry opportunity?

Mostly by on-the-job training.

Hold classes that help people get trained for various ministries.

Pass out the "next steps process" for getting from visitor to involved.

Continue with the background checks and intake interview that currently goes along with kids and youth ministries.

9. Do you highlight opportunities to serve outside of the walls of the church?

We do – we raise awareness in announcements, testimonies after different kinds of trips.

We could use the church Facebook page and the website more.

We talked about food distribution, 5th Sunday offering, the outreach to the school, missionaries, the Honduras trip.

We actively support Another Way Pregnancy Care Center.

The Missions Craft Team makes various things for missions.

Have had missions conference in past where missionaries are highlighted, but haven't had one of those in a while.

Discussed the process of handling community inquiries about what we do – not working well at this point.

10. Based on the responses to this question and your own observations -- does your church reflect a commitment to Ephesians 4:11-12, where the pastors/staff view themselves as trainers and the people are the ministers?

NO!

There was a lengthy discussion about the need for a unified approach for the church in terms of its direction and the way it talks about ministries.

Display or communicate this unified approach to the whole church.